

Herefordshire Cricket Talent Development Framework 2026


WHITAKER
13

Early Engagement and Foundation Stage

- Ages 8-12
- Players should be able to meet the majority of abilities listed across batting, bowling, fielding, and/or wicket keeping
- Players should meet the principles outlined in the Selection Policy and show cricketing ability and aptitude but also a great attitude, effort, and sportsmanship.
- Ability to listen, willingness to take on coaching feedback and work on personal development and improvement



EEP Batting

Batters should have a comfortable and balanced set up

And show the Ability to:

- Play straight in attack and defence
- Defend straight balls off back and front foot
- To present the full face of the bat- straight bat path.
- Put the bad ball away with strong shots both sides of the wicket
- Pick length and play
- Rotate strike
- Understand their strengths to enable run scoring



EEP Bowling

- Bowl with a safe, repeatable action
- Ability to keep the stumps in play
- Ability to bowl a consistent stock ball
- Demonstrate good alignment and momentum towards the target.
- Bowl only small numbers of extras
- Spinners to spin the ball



EEP Fielding

- Showcase a run saving mentality
- Dive and demonstrate athleticism
- Throw with some power and accuracy
- To work off the ball, anticipate and move well
- To stay engaged
- Field and catch and stop a hard ball with confidence



EEP wicket keeping

- Wicket keepers should be able to catch the majority of balls batters miss which are not wides
- To display confidence catching and stopping a hard ball from bowlers and fielders
- Dive and show athleticism and courage
- Alignment to ball with head , hands and feet.
- Stand up to the wicket against slow bowlers
- Concentrate for up to 20 overs



Model Girls EEP Player

- Play with positive intent (looking to score, want to take wicket, attack the ball)
- Create strong , balanced and athletic positions.
- Demonstrates a safe and repeatable bowling action.
- Demonstrates ability to play down the line of the ball.
- Demonstrates ability to catch and stop the ball consistently.
- Demonstrates ability to throw with power and accuracy.
- Demonstrates the want to develop their skills and passion for the game.

Development Phase

- Ages 13-15
- County Players should be able to meet the majority of abilities listed across batting, bowling, fielding, and/or wicket keeping
- Players should meet the principles outlined in the Selection Policy and show cricketing ability and aptitude but also a great attitude, effort, and sportsmanship.
- Ability to listen, willingness to take on coaching feedback and work on personal development and improvement
- Players should be developing their ability to compete and show resilience in the face of knock-backs
- Play with courage, consistency, spirit and demonstrate togetherness



Batting – Development Stage

In addition to the building blocks established in the Foundation Stage County batters should be able to:

- Stay in and score runs for longer periods as indicated by fifties and hundreds
- Run hard, maximise scoring opportunities and build partnerships batting with postive intent.
- Adapt their play to different situations and conditions
- Show an ability to perform under pressure.
- Manipulate the ball into gaps to score
- Ability to hit boundaries of both pace and spin bowling
- Score off spinners by adapting methods, eg using feet, ability to sweep



Bowling – Development Phase

In addition to the building blocks established in the Foundation Stage County bowlers should be able to:

- Bowl wicket taking balls, eg create movement or bounce
- Adapt their bowling to match situations and develop some variations
- Build pressure by consistent line & length
- Demonstrate the ability to perform under pressure.
- Spinners to have developed variations which can deceive batters
- Ability to spin the ball both directions- bring both edges into play.
- Demonstrate good tactical awareness with field settings



Fielding – Development Stage

In addition to the building blocks established in the Foundation Stage County fielders should be able to:

- Demonstrate consistent athleticism, intensity and fitness in the field
- Throw powerfully and accurately consistently
- Catch in all outfield positions and develop the ability to take catches behind the wicket (eg, in the slips)
- Take wickets in the field by direct hit run outs and excellent catches
- Demonstrate postive intent in the field – want the ball!
- Concentrate and stay energised for up to 50 overs



Wicket keeping – Development Stage

- In addition to the building blocks established in the Foundation Stage wicket keepers should be able to:
- Stand up to the wicket against medium pacers
- Take wicket taking catches off slow bowlers standing up to the stumps
- Take wicket taking stumpings on the off side
- Concentrate for up to 50 overs
- Ability to support the captain with field placing



Model Girls U13-U15Player

- Demonstrates good tactical knowledge of the game and has an understanding of their personal game.
- Demonstrates ability to field in a range of positions
- Demonstrates ability to bowl a range of deliveries consistently as well a strong stock ball.
- Demonstrates ability to build an innings over a longer period of time against both pace and spin.
- Demonstrates ability to move efficiently and dynamically.
- Demonstrates fielding awareness and move off the ball into the correct position.
- Show leadership qualities within the team and offer support to the captain.

Confirmation & Transition Phase

- 16-18 year olds
- Preparing players for higher-level performance environments
- Players continue to build on the abilities and attitudes they have developed in the County Age Group Programme and maintain a growth mindset and enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Cricketers who are proud to represent Herefordshire
- Demonstrate inner drive to develop and compete



Batting – Confirmation & Transition Phase

- In addition to the building blocks established in the previous stages County batters should be able to
- Refine individual game plans and strengths.
- Construct and adapt innings T20 and 40/50-over
- Demonstrate advanced shot-making (sweeps, ramps, power hitting).
- Perform consistently against high-quality bowling (swing, spin, pace).
- Show leadership: mentoring younger batters, tactical input during games.
- Demonstrate an inner drive to score runs at all times and in all situations.



Bowling – Confirmation & Transition Phase

In addition to the building blocks established in the previous stages County bowlers should demonstrate

- A refined, repeatable action under match intensity.
- Development of tactical awareness: setting fields, planning overs.
- Range of variations executed under pressure (e.g. yorker, slower ball, doosra, leg-spin variations).
- Consistency against quality opposition.
- Physical robustness to handle adult cricket demands.
- Spinners to spin the ball hard and bowl at the correct pace to create drop, drift, bounce as well as turn



Fielding – Confirmation & Transition Phase

- In addition to the building blocks established in the previous stages County fielders should demonstrate
- Consistency in specialist positions (slips, inner ring, boundary).
- Tactical awareness: cutting angles, game-saving stops.
- Leadership in the field – directing others, energy providers.
- High-intensity, repeatable fielding performance under pressure



Wicket Keeping – Confirmation & Transition Phase

In addition to the building blocks established in the previous stages County keepers should demonstrate

- Consistency in all conditions (pace, spin, swing).
- High-level glove skills: standing up, leg-side takes, difficult chances.
- Advanced tactical contributions: reading batters, advising captains.
- Leadership role: communication, energy, support for bowlers and fielders.
- Demonstrate an ability to have an influence on the game through their wicket keeping



Model Girls 16+ Player

- Demonstrates consistent match changing performances within the team
- Demonstrates ability to hit the ball 360 and manipulate the field.
- Demonstrate ability to build and adapt innings in a range of sessions.
- Demonstrates ability to read batters and bowl to a plan to create pressure on the batter.
- Demonstrates ability to provide tactical insight into the game and create energy in the field for the entire game.

