

Harrow Borough Cricket Development Plans

Objectives:

It's important that all clubs within our borough understand the process of selecting the correct cricketers in their clubs that meet our selection guidelines. This document will help provide all the information that will help meet their needs and provide the best process for players to be identified and developed. It's also important that clubs understand how we plan to operate under the borough banner.

Purpose:

The Borough Championships will allow talented players to play with, and against, players of a similar playing standard from clubs across the County who aspire to move to the next level of the player pathway. Borough Cricket will act as the platform for talent identification for Ark Regional cricket, the selection vehicle for County cricket.

This system aims to provide a transparent journey for players to be identified and thus given the maximum opportunity to reach their potential.

Planning:

Forward planning is very important. We need to identify the players early and have the opportunity of watching them train or play indoor cricket with their clubs across the winter months. For our players to flourish within our borough set up we need to develop the correct system with the key components in place. These include the organisation and management of our selection process, training and management of matches, the players, the coaches, and the facilities for training and playing. We also need to agree and provide dates earlier to avoid clashes during our busy summer cricket programme.

Key Components are as follows:

1. Good organisation and management providing clear communication to clubs and players.
2. A clear focus on how we want to train and play allowing us to concentrate on match understanding.
3. Availability of coaches that have clear understanding of our process and goals.
4. Coaching plan that allows a set of core skills that will let us develop the team needs.

Talent Identification:

It's important that clubs nominate players that meet the suggested skills requirements to be able to compete at a higher level within the borough programme. Accurate identification of cricket talent is important because it helps establish players who have the correct attributes for success in cricket. Having these players involved in borough cricket will help raise the overall standard, quality and profile of cricket within the borough competition.

Selection:

Selecting a squad or team is always a matter of opinion and no coach can be certain in advance that he/she has selected the best combination of players. There are certain requirements that are necessary in choosing the best squad or team.

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1. A sound knowledge and understanding of the game of cricket.
2. Ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of players, both in technique and temperament.
3. A format for observing, analysing and collecting information about players.
4. A system for recording the details and assessments of the capabilities of every player so that when it comes to selecting the squad or team judgements can be made on the basis of accurate information rather than just relying on memory.

This will allow us to inform those players not selected as to why they were not chosen and where they need to make improvements.

Selection Format

1. Provide clubs with skill requirement for borough selection.
2. Invite clubs to nominate players and provide player profile.
3. Look at players across during a trial period..
4. Consider where possible players playing records and comments from clubs.
5. Observe players in club matches & net trials to analyse skill levels.
6. Observe players in an open wicket trial to evaluate their performance in a match situation

Coaching:

Our focus will be on allowing players to learn and prepare themselves as individuals and as a team for a match and to develop an awareness of the game and its tactics.

This will include introducing them to goal setting, leadership, problem solving, decision making, risk taking, communicating, building an innings, bowling plans, understanding attacking and defensive play.

Players need to be aware of game understanding. This will be important as they develop their cricket in a longer format of 30, 35 & 40 over matches.

Coaching Structure:

When putting in place an effective Borough coaching structure it's important that the whole programme is geared towards meeting the needs of the players involved. An effective coaching programme must be underpinned and guided by a clear philosophy (Why do we play? To win? To have fun? To develop skills? Or maybe a combination of these?)

While the challenge of competition and striving to win are the essence of sport and are important objectives in cricket, learning to compete is part of a process young cricketers need to be guided through. They can't achieve success without the essential cricket skills and a strong sense of teamwork and fair play. Our structure should then foster a positive competitive environment in which all players are encouraged to learn and improve their skills and game sense, to achieve success, to enjoy the quality of the experience and to do their best to develop their full sporting potential.

An effective coaching programme needs to focus on the big picture. Adopting a coordinated season focus and developing a coaching plan will help achieve this. A coaching plan is a written outline of the coaching programme for the season.

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A set of core skills that cover the essentials, identified game plan and team needs, together with a list of appropriate drills to develop these. These skills need to be prioritised then divided and spread through the coaching plan.

A range of procedures for measuring the effectiveness of each player's performance at practice and matches should also be in place.

Player Requirements:

Players must possess current county junior level skills in 2 out of 3 disciplines – batting, bowling and wicket-keeping. Each player must be athletic and have a high level of technical fielding skill.

- Batters must have a strong, repeatable batting set-up and pre-ball routine. A technique that is able to withstand both short and full pitched bowling at good pace or a spinning or swinging ball, which minimizes the chance of getting out and provides a strong basis to score, runs from.
- A range of strong 'run-scoring' shots which can be relied upon to succeed against high quality bowling. A temperament that enables a batter to bat for long periods of time, (e.g. 2 hours or 30 overs plus)
- Wicketkeepers need a repeatable set-up and pre-ball routine. A technique that enables a high catching % whether standing up to or back from the stumps. The ability to stand up to the stumps to all medium pace and some fast bowlers in your own age group and retain a high catching %.
- A technical ability to be able to influence a game by creating wicket-taking opportunities (e.g. stumpings, catches and run-outs). A temperament and level of fitness that enables a wicket-keeper to keep for long periods of time. An ability to bat in the top 6 in a County Age Group Team.
- Bowlers need a strong, repeatable and safe bowling action. A technique that enables a bowler to bowl with a high level of consistency.
- Fast bowler – 2 out of the 3 following attributes, pace, bounce and swing.
- Spin bowler – 2 out of the 3 following attributes, spin, bounce and a variation delivery
- A level of fitness that enables a bowler to bowl appropriate length spells at a high level of intensity and consistency.

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