



WILTSHIRE CRICKET

**TALENT IDENTIFICATION
& PLAYER SELECTION**

**Women's & Girls
Talent Pathway**

2023-2024



TALENT IDENTIFICATION



How does Wiltshire Cricket identify talent and make selection decisions?

SKILLS FRAMEWORKS

Do players show skills and attributes that align to ECB's "Unleashing Potential" framework, Western Storm frameworks and Wiltshire Cricket skills frameworks?

MANY EYES – MANY TIMES

What are the opinions of other trusted coaches? School, club, opposition & county coaches, Western Storm Talent Managers/Scouts?

LEVEL ADAPTABILITY

How does the player react when challenged at a level they've never played at previously?

COACHABILITY

Does the player have an energy & passion for the game and can balance this with an ability to listen, learn and retain information?

GROWTH MINDSET

Does the player have a mindset that is open to potential areas of improvement and a willingness to fail in pursuing growth?

RELATIVE AGE EFFECT

There can be a big difference in a player's maturation from those born in September to those born in August.

Additionally, with many Girls County Age Groups spanning over 2+ years, there can be large differences in age, maturity and physicality.

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

What are the player's general movements and athleticism like?
Can players move into and move from dynamic positions consistently? Do their physical attributes allow them to succeed with particular skills or give them a 'Point of Difference'? (I.e. Height & Bounce)

COACH CONTACT TIME

Two players might be at the same level but had very different levels of support or opportunity to train/play.

STATISTICS

Whilst we value individual performances, there is no guarantee leading wicket takers or run scorers will get selected. We will look at "HOW" players go about the game, rather than statistics. Often, "how" players approach the game will provide an indication of future performances.

HOW WE GATHER INFORMATION

TRIAL PROCESS

**COACH/SCOUT VISITS TO
WOMEN'S & GIRLS' FIXTURES**

**SCHOOL COMPETITIONS
& COUNTY BOARD EVENTS**

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**DURING THE TRIAL PROCESS,
PARENTS CAN SHARE FOOTAGE OF
THEIR DAUGHTER PLAYING**



TALENT FRAMEWORKS

There are 3 Talent Framework documents that can be useful to support coaches with Talent ID and player selection;

**WILTSHIRE CRICKET'S
"SKILLS FRAMEWORK"**

**WESTERN STORM'S
"WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR"**

**ECB'S
"UNLEASHING POTENTIAL"**

Each framework uses common language and articulates the underpinning characteristics of talent identification. The 3 frameworks cover different stages and levels of the game. These documents therefore act as 'guides' for coaches in the Talent ID process.

To support Club Coaches with the nomination process, the following pages will provide a 'snapshot' of the talent frameworks and some of the skills/characteristics that coaches will be looking for?



WHAT MAKES A WILTSHIRE CRICKETER ?

U11 Girls

LOVES THE GAME

WILLING TO LEARN

KEEN TO EXPLORE
NEW SKILLS

WILLING TO PROGRESS
TO HARD BALL

CONSISTENTLY STRIKES A
MOVING BALL WITH A BAT

BOWLS MOST BALLS TOWARDS
TARGET WITH ONE BOUNCE

CATCHES MOST SOFT BALLS
FROM VARYING HEIGHTS

CONFIDENT STOPPING A
SOFT BALL WHEN FIELDING

U13 Girls

LOVES THE GAME

WILLING TO LEARN

KEEN TO EXPLORE
NEW SKILLS

HAS HARD BALL
EXPERIENCE

CONSISTENTLY STRIKES
THE BALL CLEANLY

EXPLORING SPIN, SWING OR
SEAM BOWLING
(OR WICKET-KEEPING)

CAN STRIKE BALL TO BOTH
SIDES OF WICKET WHEN
BATTING

CONFIDENT CATCHING &
STOPPING A HARD BALL

WILLINGNESS TO ATTACK THE
BALL WHEN FIELDING TO CREATE
WICKET OPPORTUNITIES

WILLING TO BAT, BOWL & FIELD
IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS TO
EXPLORE DIFFERENT
ROLES/PHASES OF PLAY

WHAT MAKES A WILTSHIRE CRICKETER ?

U15 & U18 Girls

LOVES THE GAME

WILLING TO LEARN

**KEEN TO EXPLORE
NEW SKILLS**

**HAS HARD BALL
EXPERIENCE**

**DEVELOPING FRONT FOOT &
BACK FOOT SHOTS**

**LOOKS TO SCORE AND BATS
WITH POSITIVE INTENT**

**EXPLORING/LEARNING OPTIONS
AGAINST SPIN (I.E. SWEEP,
DEPTH OF CREASE, FOOTWORK)**

**WILLINGNESS TO BAT IN
DIFFERENT ROLES AND PHASES
OF PLAY**

**CAN BOWL A REASONABLY
CONSISTENT STOCK BALL**

**STARTING TO EXPLORE A
VARIATION BALL**

**SHOWS A 'POINT OF DIFFERENCE'
(I.E. PACE, BOUNCE, LATERAL
MOVEMENT, SPIN, CONTROL,
VARIATIONS, ANGLES)**

**CAN BOWL IN DIFFERENT PHASES
OF THE GAME AND BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND THE ROLES**

**WILLINGNESS TO ATTACK THE
BALL WHEN FIELDING TO CREATE
WICKET OPPORTUNITIES**

**CONFIDENT CATCHING &
STOPPING A HARD BALL**

**BEGINNING TO GAIN AN
UNDERSTANDING OF
FIELDING TACTICS**

**WANTS THE BALL WHEN
FIELDING**

**WICKET KEEPING:
CAN MAINTAIN A STRONG
POSTURE THAT ALLOWS EASY
LATERAL MOVEMENT**

**WICKET KEEPING:
CAN CONSISTENTLY CATCH THE
BALL WHEN STANDING BACK**

**WICKET KEEPING:
WILLING TO STAND-UP TO
SPINNERS AND SOME PACE
BOWLERS**

**MOVES WELL AND SHOWS
GOOD ATHLETICISM**

FAQs

Does it matter which club I am from?

No, all clubs are sent information about trials and about how parents can register their daughter for a trial.

My school does not play cricket regularly, is that considered?

You do not need to attend a cricket-playing school; We only send nomination information to clubs and will not ask for school information as part of registering for a trial. The exception to this is at Under 11s cricket, where primary schools may be asked for nominations.

Do I need a 1-2-1 coach outside of the talent pathway coaching to increase my chances of being selected?

Each player develops in different ways, a 1-2-1 coach can be an effective way for a young player to see improvement, but this is not considered in the selection process.

Will playing adult cricket be considered in selection?

Firstly, ECB directives state that children cannot play open age cricket until Year 8. Playing adult cricket early can be a great way to fast-track development and is great for their long-term potential.

Will I receive personalised feedback following the trial process?

Unfortunately, we have too many trialists to provide personalised feedback. Our coaches are approachable and are usually happy to respond to individual circumstances. We will also be asking our coaches to make selection decisions aligned to this document, our Talent Pathway framework, ECB's "Unleashing potential" document and Western Storm Talent Frameworks.

FAQs

I have an injury at the time of the trial, what shall I do?

This is quite common; please make the lead coach of this age group aware. Also, if you / your daughter is experiencing some growth related issues please let us know. We have other processes in place to cover such circumstances.

I play another sport at a performance level. Do I need to choose which pathway to pursue?

We will not ask any child to make this decision. Being a multi-sport child is embraced. Please communicate with the county age group coach, and we'll see how both schedules can be accommodated.

I have been in the pathway for several years. Does this mean that I will be automatically selected?

Previous seasons' performances will be considered, but involvement alone does not guarantee selection.

I have the ambition to play professional cricket. Can I achieve this through the Wiltshire Cricket Talent Pathway?

Absolutely - Wiltshire Cricket has a great relationship with Western Storm and we regularly work together to support players with high potential. The pathway through to regional 'Emerging Player Programmes' and 'Academy' programmes are identical in National Counties (I.e. Wiltshire) and First-Class Counties (I.e. Gloucestershire/Hampshire/Somerset). Throughout the year, Western Storm Scouts and Coaches will regularly visit Wiltshire fixtures and training sessions. In the 2023 season, 6 Wiltshire players (out of 36 from the region) were selected into the Western Storm EPP Programme, and a further 2 Wiltshire players (out of 12 from the region) were selected into the Western Storm Academy squad.

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