

# THE UAJCA COACHING PATHWAY

## A COACHING STRATEGY FOR THE UPPER AIREDALE JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION

This document describes the Association's current approach to coaching junior cricketers - male and female, disabled and able bodied - throughout the area and outlines how that approach should be developed over the next 5 years by means of an action plan to meet the Association's vision and objectives.

### 1. VISION

**To be regarded as the best Junior Cricket League in the Yorkshire Cricket Board area for encouraging participation in cricket and for the development of young cricketers to achieve their full potential.**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide accessibility to good quality voluntary and fee based cricket coaching for junior cricketers in all clubs affiliated to the Association.
2. To provide a stimulating, enjoyable and safe environment for all junior cricketers so as to encourage as many young people as possible to participate in the sport.
3. To ensure that all talented young cricketers within the Association area are identified as early as possible and to provide, in association with our strategic partners, Pro Coach Yorkshire Cricket (PCYC) and Yorkshire Cricket Board, a development structure for such cricketers which allows them to achieve their full potential.

### 2. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT POSITION

2.1 There are currently 23 cricket clubs affiliated to the Association currently between them running 68 teams within 5 age groups from Under 9s to Under 17s. In 2014, there were around 1500 young people registered with the Association and 900 actually playing cricket in those teams. The Association runs 6 representative teams (4 'Taverners' teams playing in YCB competitions and 2 'Development Teams between those age groups).

2.2 Within that structure, there are around 100 people voluntarily involved within clubs in either regular coaching of young people or currently otherwise semi-active within clubs. Some have achieved the England and Wales Cricket Board coaching qualifications (either recently under the current qualification structure or at some point in the past) but some have not, as follows

Level 2	-	20
Level 1	-	8 (under the current ECB structure – this level of qualification is referred to as Coach Support Worker)
Unqualified	-	62

There is one Level 3 qualified coach active within the Association. In addition, some clubs have occasional use of Level 3 coaches.

2.4 The current ECB Coaching structure is described at **Appendix 1**. The challenge facing the Association is that the ECB's structure now provides a distinction at Level 2 between coaches specialising in children (ages 6-13) and young people and adults (ages 13 and above). Hardly any (if any at all) of the Association's current coaches have taken their qualification under this new Pathway and so there are

no specialist Level 2 coaches for either of these specific age groups. This strategy seeks later to address this challenge.

### 3. COACHING PATHWAY

3.1 In coaching terms, there are 3 levels of junior cricketer development

- Beginners – those who are very new to the game and need to be coached in the basic skills.
- Developers – those who have some experience in playing the game and have potential and who need to/want to develop their skills further.
- Elite – those who have shown high levels of aptitude for the game, have achieved high levels of performance and who have the potential to develop even further

All three levels need to be fully recognised and provided for in this strategy. The Association considers that, at this stage and in coaching terms, the needs of girls and boys should not be disaggregated and that both sexes should be accommodated within the mainstream structure of this strategy.

3.2 This strategy seeks to provide a seamless pathway between the development needs of these 3 levels through

- the development of coaching and support for coaches at the grass roots within the Clubs, building on the immense voluntary effort being put in



- increasing participation levels throughout the association and improving performances of Club teams and individuals



- Access to a structure of professional and voluntary coaching opportunities at Association level to complement the work done within Clubs



- impartial and detached evaluation and regular review of emerging talent



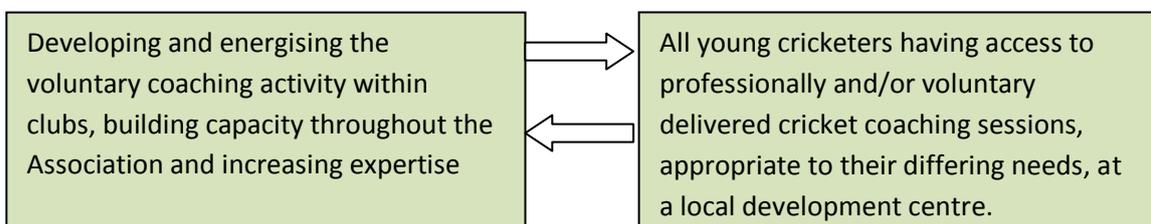
- professionally structured selection and management of our representative sides



- fully supported development of our most talented players into District and County squads

### 4. STRATEGIC STRUCTURE FOR COACHING

4.1 The Association's strategic approach to coaching will be built on a simple 2 tier structure, as follows



4.2 This strategy explains how this simple structure will be built, developed and maintained to facilitate the pathway for development described at 3.1 above.

## 5. **TIER ONE - DEVELOPMENT OF COACHING WITHIN CLUBS**

### 5.1 **Administration**

- the Association will appoint a volunteer Coaching Officer with responsibility for supporting and communicating with all coaches within clubs and for maintaining a database of all Association coaches. The Coaching Officer will be responsible for reviewing and updating this strategy and reporting annually to the League Executive.
- The Craven and/or West Bradford Development Groups will produce an annual programme of available courses for Coaches (ECB/Safeguarding/First Aid) and inform the Coaching Administrator.

### 5.2 **Coach development**

- Within 5 years, the Association will seek to increase the capacity of qualified coaching within the Association area, vis
  - from 20 to 30 active Level 2 Coaches and
  - three Level 3 Coaches.
- By 31 March 2015, the Association will introduce a scheme whereby local Level 2/3 Coaches with ECBCA insurance cover will be available periodically to offer advice and support to those Clubs without or with limited qualified coaching capacity, should it be required, to bring new ideas and expertise in cricket coaching.
- The Association will partially fund six Level 2 course per year, upon application from the Club and individual concerned. Any person so supported would be expected to volunteer their services for the support scheme above and for consideration for Representative Team support for a minimum of 2 years.
- Clubs should be recommended as good practice to assess, as part of routine Club planning, their need to be involved in Junior Cricket over a forthcoming 5 year period and identify coaching structures for that need.
- Where any particular needs of disabled cricketers cannot be met by capacity within clubs or within the Association area, the Association will seek to identify appropriate provision from other areas to advise the Club and individual.

### 5.3 **Increasing participation**

The development of coaching expertise throughout the area and the sharing of ideas amongst coaches and clubs should bring new vibrancy to coaching sessions across the Association. However, more will be done to bring increased numbers of young people to coaching sessions, vis

- The Association will, by 31 March 2015, seek to encourage the Yorkshire Cricket Board through the Area Council to continue to support the 'Chance to Shine' initiative within local

schools or, if that support is not forthcoming, to seek to run its own similar scheme within our area.

- By 30 June 2015, the Association will introduce a scheme whereby, over a 5 year period, the Association and its activities are publicised in a highly visible way within all Schools in the area, promoting local cricket clubs.
- The Association will seek to build strong relationships between Schools and affiliated clubs throughout our area so as to publicise the facilities available by means of this strategy and if required and if possible, to support schools in the playing of cricket.
- Clubs should be encouraged to bring a 'sense of occasion' to coaching sessions, for example by amalgamating them with other events, such as scheduled matches, or by periodically pooling resources with other clubs, or by effective marketing through schools and other relevant organisations.
- By June 2015, the Association will survey those clubs who have been affiliated to it but no longer run Junior Teams, to identify the reasons for non-participation, and will by 2016 devise a support strategy for those clubs.

#### 5.4 **Representative Team Development**

The Association has had responsibility for the management and selection of the age group Representative Teams, and for nomination for District and County age group cricket, for only a relatively short period. In that time, it has successfully developed the structure so that it has full 'Taverner' teams for the four Under 11 to Under 17 age groups and two 'Development' teams at Under 10s and Under 12s.

The Association considers that the success of the Representative Teams is a key element in determining the Association's overall reputation for player development.

Building on the work being done at Tier One of this strategy, and dovetailing into the UAJCA Pathways Centre initiative below, the Association intends to build on its approach to Representative Team development by agreeing and publishing a policy, by 31 March 2015, setting out transparently how Representative Teams should be selected, coached and managed.

#### 6. **TIER TWO –UAJCA PATHWAY CENTRE DELIVERY**

- 6.1 The Association has identified Pro Coach Yorkshire Cricket (PCYC) as its current strategic partner for the delivery of professional coaching sessions to young people in this area. Building on the delivery by PCYC, in 2014, of the 10 week 'UAJCA Winter Development Centre' course, this strategy seeks to put in place a structure for access to a fee based professional coaching experience for all three levels of junior cricketer, complementing the voluntary work done by Clubs in increasing participation levels and local development of talent within those clubs.
- 6.2 The partnership of PCYC with South Craven School to create a new Cricket Centre at the school provides a golden opportunity for UAJCA - in partnership with PCYC - to develop some professionally delivered products that could meet the differing needs of Beginners, Developers and Elite.
- 6.3 The Yorkshire Cricket Board currently operates its 'Pathways to Excellence' coaching scheme, whereby young cricketers who are considered (following trials) to have potential to play County District and full County age group cricket, are entitled to attend winter coaching sessions at 8 'Pathway Centres' throughout Yorkshire, from which recommendations are made to county coaches

for inclusion in District and County Teams. Currently, the UAJCA area does not have a 'Pathway Centre' in its area but provides nominations for trials in North and West Yorkshire. The development of the UAJCA Pathway Centre will provide an opportunity for this area to have an accredited centre at some point in the future.

6.4 A structure of these products is shown below. The Elite Academy will be delivered and operated by January 2015 with the remainder of the products being delivered in late 2015 or early January 2016.

UAJCA PATHWAY			
Group	Ages	Product	Delivery
Elite [Representative level]	<b>U11, u13 and u15</b>	<b>UAJCA Elite Academy [UEA]</b>	<b>PCYC</b>
Developing	<b>U12, u13, u14 and u15</b>	<b>UAJCA Development Academy [UDA]</b>	<b>UAJCA mentored by PCYC</b>
	<b>U9, u10 and u11</b>	<b>UAJCA Development Academy [UDA]</b>	<b>UAJCA mentored by PCYC</b>
Beginners	<b>U9, u10, u11, u12 and u13</b>	<b>UAJCA Cricket Introduction [UCI]</b>	<b>UAJCA</b>
Early starters	<b>Under 8 [4 to 7]</b>	<b>Junior Crickets</b>	<b>PCYC</b>

6.5 The linkages between the voluntary coaching capacity within clubs and the professional products provided at the UAJCA Pathways Centre can be shown as follows

