

Cricket New Forest Development.

Time line

January

Development Training starts.

February

Development Training continues.
Holiday course in Half Term.

March

Indoor Development Training ends.
Outdoor Development Training starts.

April

Holiday course at Easter.

District & NFCCA outside training and friendly matches take place.

District squads will be informed of their inclusion and or asked for their availability to represent the district at the May Festivals. District squads will consist of players who have been nominated from the previous season and have attended Development sessions. Squads may also contain players who have been unable to attend development sessions but managers and coaches are aware of their ability.

Players of county ability will be highlighted by Cricket New Forest staff for assessment by the county staff at future festival matches.

Players not initially selected for the main squads should not loose hope as player development varies on the individual. These players will also be used for friendly games and where availability dictates.

May

NFCCA colt season commences.

Players showing recently acquired ability to be highlighted to Cricket New Forest for possible inclusion in district squads. These squads will be playing friendly matches and will also form a 14 player squad to represent the district in the May Half term festival matches.

Players showing county potential will be highlighted by Cricket New Forest staff to their County counter-parts for assessment. These players may be asked to bat or bowl in order to be seen by the appropriate staff during Festival games.

As a result of the first 3 matches, continued assessment will produce a best of district side to play the county team at the end of the week. This may enable players from district to move to the county squad and visa versa. Again players should not loose heart as individual development varies.

June

Nomination forms sent to clubs & schools in June/July and available on line.

The District and NFCCA continues, hopefully producing players off radar who are developing through match practise and further coaching.

Selection for the 14 player squads is finalised for the 2nd part of the festival leagues which will take place in July.

It is hoped that continued progress of players from club and district will be monitored and highlighted to the appropriate staff.

July

The end of NFCCA colts season, friendly matches may still be taking place until later in the season. The 2nd set of district festival matches takes place, again the 3 matches will produce a best of district squad to play the county side. Once more players may move from District to county and visa versa. District friendly matches will continue along with assessment of players.

August

Completed Nomination forms will be returned by clubs to district by early august. This should give enough time to produce further assessment games to take place in September on grass and under match conditions. The format will be dictated by the quantity and quality of nominations, inter district assessment games may take place. Particular attention should be paid to the under 9 players who will form the winter under 10 development squad.

September

The new assessment games will take place format TBC.

Under 9's may have more games to prepare them for the future county assessments.

October

Further indoor assessments may take place TBC. At this point Development session squads will be selected for winter training.

November

R&R, apart from Admin.

This is a good time to be looking for future district managers and coaches.

December

The county under 9 assessments have traditionally taken place at the Rosebowl. This may change due to the September games. Development training may start in December.

Notes

Selection

Nomination forms give clubs the opportunity to put forward a player who they feel would benefit from development coaching and the opportunity to play at a higher standard. A rough guide to ability and standard which may prompt and assist with the selection process is included.

District selection is then based on an **assessment/trial** session/s. These may be more assessment based than trial from now on.

The under 9's being the first age group, present a unique problem as there is generally no proven track record for these players. In past years it has been difficult to assemble a squad of sufficient numbers. As a result of this situation there may be one or two inappropriate selections, a state which should rectify itself during the season with an *open door policy*. It is hoped that club, school, district and county continue to assess players and pass on relevant information to enable the player's full potential to be reached.

The age groups under 10 onwards should with the aid of the open door policy maintain the best club and school players available. At this point most age group managers will operate an assessment/trial for players on the fringe of district standard whilst maintaining a core squad of players with so called proven *Form* or potential.

The selection will only maintain its effectiveness if all levels of the process co-operate with one another. This is an area which is open to opinion and debate and due to the practical issues of finance and resources may leave a bitter taste in ones mouth even when the system is running well.

The Squad

Development coaching can be a relatively expensive process and with the favouring of funding to club marked and focus clubs, this situation will not become an easier in the foreseeable future. The completion of the winter development coaching will not guarantee any players place in the district squad. It has been my experience that most managers do prefer to use the players who have attended the development sessions for obvious reasons. The exceptions to this are: players who attend boarding schools and keep good lines of communications with the manager/coach of the squad, Players who have to take employment during the sessions and keep good lines of communication, Players who move into the district and are recommended to the district, Players who have had an exceptional growth spurt and or accompanied by an exceptional run of form, Players returned from county development. Players who have been recommended by club coaches and or managers and not forgetting the open door policy.

The Team

The make up of the team is made by the coach and manager. The criteria will become more stringent with age. The under 10 and 11 age group will generally be multitasking, batting bowling and fielding/wicket keeping. However it will become apparent that certain players as also recognized by their peers, become more proficient at either batting or bowling, and due to the competitive nature of the game will start to fulfil these roles regularly. A batting and bowling order becoming apparent. This is not to say that this state will prevail as due to growth development bowlers may become batters and visa versa.

Involvement

There may be occasions when the environment may affect the game and influence the coach, manager and captain's decisions. The pitch can be more receptive to spin, the atmosphere may encourage the ball to swing, rain may be expected and a game plan may be set due to previous knowledge. This may produce situations where the seamers may have to bowl most of the overs. It would however be foolhardy not to allow a slow or spin bowler the opportunity to hone their craft in a match situation. There may be occasions when a bowling change for example is required in order for a player's potential to be seen by appropriate staff or coaches. District cricket is competitive but in my experience most captains, managers and coaches manage to even out the balance during the course of a season and give most players a go.

12th man

District cricket allows us to use a 12th man for our games. This player will have a limited involvement in the game depending on the rules and arrangements of any particular match. Friendly district matches for younger age groups may allow for an agreement to be made where the 12th man may bat as well as field and bowl. Generally speaking the festival and competition games only allow the 12th man to field and occasionally bowl but not bat. The identity of the 12th man should be decided before the toss.

Assessment/trial

The district has historically run trials but called them assessments. Some selections have been made on a trial basis with one age group using an assessment/cut arrangement. In the future we hope to hold assessment based selection as a result of early nomination and assessment matches in September.

Open door policy

This system should be flexible and allow players to come in and out of the development system and squad as form and growth dictate.

Form

A state that shows a player's ability at a particular time. This state may not appear to be a constant and may also be subjective.

Parents

The Cricket New Forest and the NFCCA has a code of conduct for parents and it is hoped that all parents will endeavour to adhere to this code.