

SELECTION GUIDELINES

It is our aim to provide a challenging cricket experience where young talented players in the county can continue their development. Our overriding aim of the programme is to provide an environment and pathway to help identify and nurture talent into first class cricketers for Leicestershire and England. With this in mind this is what we are looking for:

PHYSICAL

Natural athletes, with a good basic cardiovascular levels and fundamental movement and striking skills. This will include a player's ability to run, jump and throw, present good basic speed, agility and balance, and finally present good general coordination skills and running style.

ATTITUDANAL

The LYC programme is challenging for those players who are invited to take part. Initially often due to the pure nature of our training times our sessions take place on weekday winter evenings it can be a struggle for some boys to stay engaged. We are looking for boys who are coachable, who will respond well to feedback and are open to suggestions. We are looking for boys who are self-starters and who will find a way to develop themselves rather than purely rely on their teachers, parents or coaches. We are also looking for players who understand that cricket is a team game and are willing to be selfless for the good of the group. Finally but equally if not more important we are looking for athletes who have a deep competitive drive.

MENTAL TOUGHNESS

It is not an easy thing to measure but mental toughness, the ability to make good decisions under pressure and deal with the numerous challenges that our game presents is vital. We are looking for boys who are brave enough to deal with a cricket ball coming at them at speed to either hit it, stop it or catch it. Boys who are resilient enough to deal with the ups and downs of team sport, a county selection process and a game that presents its fair share of ups and downs due to its unforgiving nature.

FIELDING

We are looking for boys who are natural catchers, and boys who can catch a cricket ball approaching them at speed or from high. It is one of the most basic areas of the game and a major areas for assessment. If a player is not confident in catching cricket balls they will struggle to progress into the programme. We are looking for players who present good basic catching positions and good awareness and perception of depth and speed in order to judge a catch from distance. We are also looking for the combination of how players move into space around the ball and intercept it, are they able to deal with the demands of dynamic fielding (hitting the deck and diving around), and last but not least looking at their basic throwing technique, accuracy, and power. (Obviously required levels increase each age group)

WICKET KEEPING

We are looking for players with good hands, sound wicket keeping basics and speed of movement. It is also important to consider the combination of being brave enough to catch a fast moving ball, judge length, speed of foot and the mental and attitudinal demands listed above.

Wicket keepers should be standing up to the stumps to medium pace and spin bowlers.

SPIN BOWLING

We are looking for players who spin the ball and who can progress to be able to beat both sides of the bat. We are looking for players who have body control and are able to show a good basic repeatable action, imparting energy onto the ball. Finally an understanding of grip and basic tactics is important.

PACE BOWLING

Accuracy is not the key thing here especially at the younger levels although it helps. But a bowler's ability to show pace or potential of pace is more important. As the age groups go up the bowler's ability to show skill with the ball and ability to hold line and length grows in importance. But at all age groups we are looking for bowlers with good natural athletic ability and running mechanics. We are certainly looking for an understanding of a good basic grip and bowling plan.

BATTING

We are looking for players with a good set up at the crease and set of fundamental basics first of all. This includes grip and players being nominated for a county trial should be able to grip the bat in an orthodox manor. Key selection criteria are players who will move into line, or stay in line when the ball is on the back foot, and move into the ball, or hold their line when the ball is on their pads on the front foot. We are looking for players who present good basic footwork, an ability to time the ball and will play with balance when attacking and defending. A critical indicator for selection is a player's ability to be comfortable when the ball is directed at his body and be brave enough to deal with the pace of his age group. As players progress up the age groups the ability to play spin also becomes increasingly important.

TACTIACALLY

How to play the game is crucial as we all know. So a player's ability to learn and understand the game is important. This is not a criteria in its own right, however in developing potential elite cricketers a player needs to be able to understand and possess the ability to learn and think about the game on a tactical level.

Please note that we are not expecting all players to be able to do all things.

These are just some guide lines for you to understand a little more about what we are looking for.

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