

# NCF County Age Group Selection Policy



**Norfolk  
Cricket  
Foundation**

## 1. Introduction

This selection policy outlines the process for selecting players to represent the County Age Group (CAG) squads. The purpose of this selection is to identify and support talented young cricketers as part of the Norfolk County Talent Pathway, which feeds into national performance programmes such as the ECB Player Pathway.

The selection process is led by the County Talent Pathway Lead and the respective Age Group Coaches, operating under the oversight of the County Performance Committee and in alignment with ECB guidelines.

## 2. Aim

The primary aim of the County Age Group programme is to develop talented young players, preparing them to compete in ECB County Age Group competitions and progress along the England Talent Pathway. We aim to provide high-quality coaching, competitive experiences, and personal development opportunities in a supportive and challenging environment.

## 3. Eligibility

Players will be eligible for selection if they meet the following criteria:

They fall within the correct age band for the age group being selected (based on ECB age group eligibility rules).

They tick one of the following:

- They reside within the county boundary,
- Born in Norfolk,
- Attend school in Norfolk,
- Play Club Cricket in Norfolk

They are not currently serving a ban from any form of competitive sport.

They agree to adhere to the policies, codes of conduct, and values of the County Cricket Foundation and associated programmes.

Players who represented the county in the previous season will automatically qualify for the winter assessment stage

#### 4. Selection Panel

The selection panel will consist of:

- The **County Talent Pathway Lead** – currently Neil Hornbuckle
- The **Age Group Coaches** for the relevant squad

#### Roles and responsibilities:

- The pathway lead coordinates the process and has the casting vote in case of a tie.
- Coaches contribute performance observations and assessment data.
- The Pathway Lead ensures alignment with broader county and ECB objectives.
- The panel will consider a range of evidence including:
  - Performance data from matches and training
  - Skills and potential observed during assessments
  - Attitude, coachability, and commitment

#### 5. Conflicts of Interest

- A conflict of interest arises if a panel member has a personal or professional relationship with a player (e.g. parent, teacher, private coach).
- All panel members must declare any potential conflict before the process begins.
- All declarations and management of conflicts will be recorded to ensure full transparency.

## 6. Selection Criteria

The panel will select:

A **training squad** of approximately 15 – 18 players per age group for the winter programme.

Selections will be made from:

- Players returning from the previous season
- New players identified through assessments, recommendations, or external scouting
- Selection will be based on a combination of:
  - Technical and tactical skill
  - Physical attributes and fitness
  - Mental readiness and attitude
  - Potential for long-term development

## 7. Selection Timeline

**Autumn (August–September):** Nominations and open trial registrations

**Winter (October–Mid November):** Assessment sessions conducted

**Late November:** Final winter squad announced

## 8. Communication and Appeals

Final squad selections will be communicated via email to all participants, including feedback where appropriate.

If a player or parent wishes to appeal a decision, they must submit a written appeal within **7 days** of the notification, citing evidence that the published policy was not followed.

Appeals will be reviewed by a separate panel including at least one independent member.

## **9. Withdrawal and Deselection**

If a selected player withdraws or is deselected (e.g. due to injury, disciplinary reasons, or breach of conduct), the selection panel may invite a replacement from the assessment pool or from outside if deemed appropriate.

## **10. Amendments to the Selection Policy**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the County Talent Pathway Lead and the County Performance Committee. Any amendments will be published ahead of the next selection cycle and made available to all stakeholders.