



CANTERBURY
CRICKET

BOYS ACADEMY & PATHWAY PROGRAMME

MALE PATHWAY HANDBOOK

2026-27

Welcome to the Canterbury Male Pathway Handbook. A shared guide for players, parents and coaches — how we select, develop and support young cricketers on the journey from club and school cricket to performance teams at Canterbury.

SCHOOL • CLUB • DISTRICTS • CANTERBURY • BLACKCAPS

WELCOME

IN THIS HANDBOOK

A guide for players, parents and coaches across the Canterbury pathway

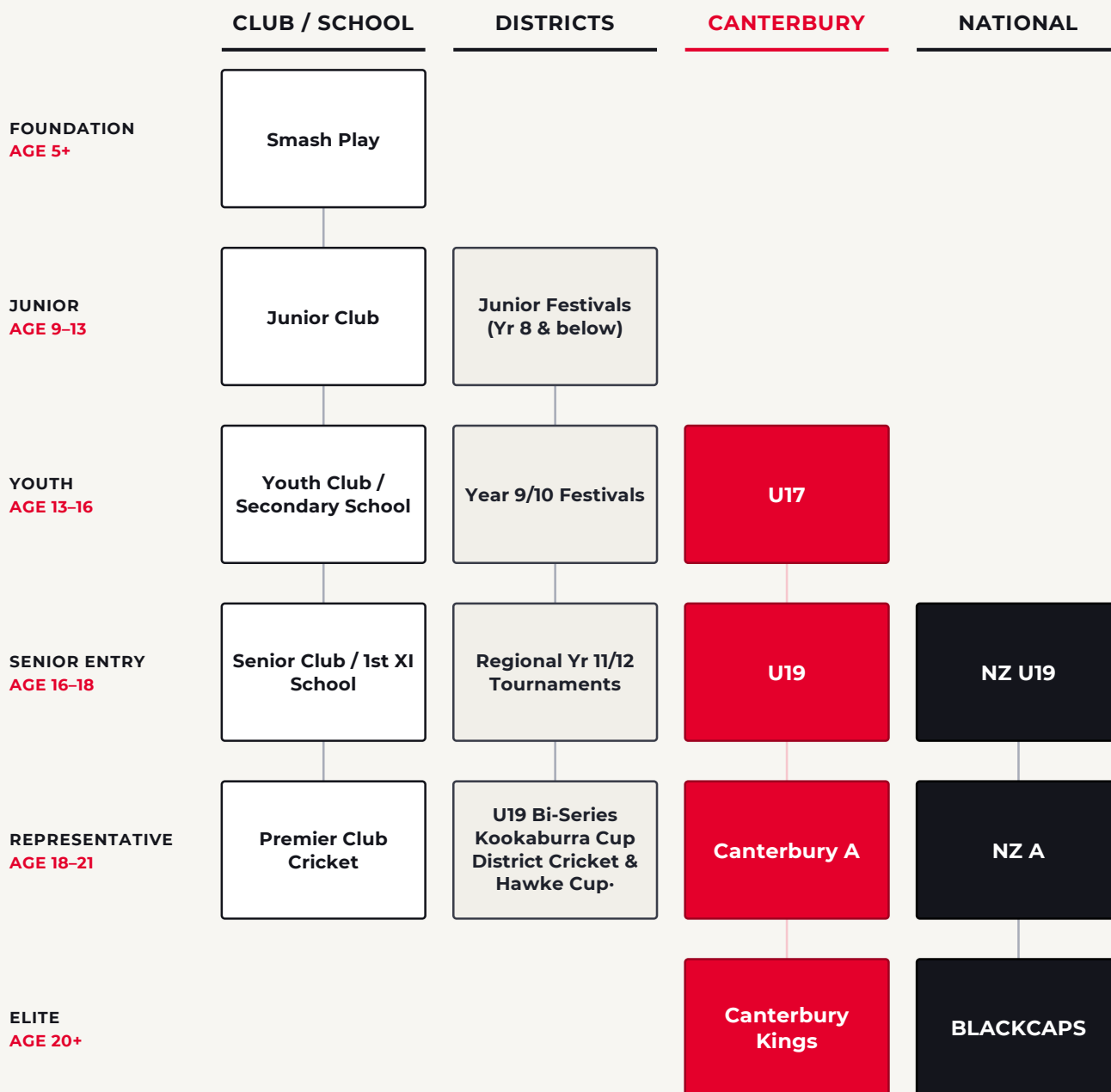
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SECTION 01

THE MALE PLAYER PATHWAY

Every step from first game to the BLACKCAPS – the pathway move down, and across



☐ Club / School

☐ Districts

☒ Canterbury

☒ National

↑↓ The pathway moves BOTH WAYS — players step up or back down the levels within a column, and across or back between club/school, district, Canterbury and national teams.

SELECTION & TALENT IDENTIFICATION

How players are identified and selected into the pathway

01

Holistic selection

Selectors draw on evidence from club, school and district cricket rather than a single performance or format.

02

Skill, potential and balance

Selection weighs current skill, long-term potential and the balance the team needs across roles.

03

Performance and behaviours

What a player does off the field carries the same weight as runs, wickets and catches.

04

Key traits we look for

Work ethic, a team-first attitude, resilience under pressure and the adaptability to keep improving.

Selection is a snapshot, not a verdict — players re-enter the pathway at every stage

ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The principles behind how we develop players in the Canterbury Boys Academy and Canterbury Performance Pathway

01

Long-term over short-term

Development is prioritised ahead of short-term results, so players are built for the senior game.

02

Developmental age first

Players are treated by developmental age, not birth date, with growth and maturation (Peak Height Velocity) monitored.

03

Holistic preparation

Technical, tactical, physical, mental and lifestyle development are progressed together.

04

Growing player ownership

Responsibility shifts steadily from coach-led to player-led as players move through the stages.

Late specialisation, long-term development — aligned with Long Term Athletic Development (LTAD) and 'The Canterbury Way'

AGES 14–17: LEARNING TO TRAIN

Building foundations, capacity and game understanding

01

Purpose of the stage

Build robust foundations and physical capacity through high-quality, deliberate repetition.

02

Technical foundations

Sound, repeatable technique across batting, bowling, fielding and keeping.

03

Physical development

Aerobic base, movement competency, speed mechanics and growth-aware modification.

04

Training and Personal Development Plans

Approximately 60% training and 40% competition, with coach-led personal development plans.

Competition is used as a learning environment at this stage

LTAD STAGE



LEARNING TO TRAIN

AGES 14–17



TRAINING TO COMPETE

AGES 17–19



TRAIN TO WIN

AGES 18+

AGES 17–19: TRAINING TO COMPETE

Optimising readiness and performing defined roles under pressure

01

Purpose of the stage

Optimise performance readiness and execute clearly defined roles under pressure.

02

Individualisation

Greater individualisation, clearer role definition and higher accountability standards.

03

Physical development

Strength converted to power, with deliberate load, recovery and workload management.

04

Training and PDPs

Approximately 50% training and 50% competition, with shared ownership of PDPs.

Competition is aligned to individual development goals

LTAD STAGE



LEARNING TO TRAIN

AGES 14–17



TRAINING TO COMPETE

AGES 17–19



TRAIN TO WIN

AGES 18+



BATTING

Skill pillars across the pathway stages

U17 AGES 14–17 · LEARNING TO TRAIN

Sound, repeatable technique

- ◆ Full-face contact, still head, eyes on the ball
- ◆ Front and back-foot competence
- ◆ Strike rotation and clear, simple game plans
- ◆ Competence against the moving ball and increasing pace
- ◆ Basic short-ball awareness

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Constraint-led nets; back-foot and spin drills; modified games

↓ PROGRESSES INTO

U19 AGES 17–19 · TRAINING TO COMPETE

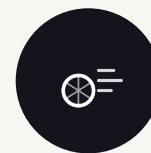
Role-specific execution

- ◆ Power hitting against spin and pace-off
- ◆ Playing genuine pace (130kph+)
- ◆ Advanced short-ball and moving-ball solutions
- ◆ Decision-making under pressure
- ◆ Clarity of role and innings construction

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Match-tempo nets; scenario and chase simulations

Source: Canterbury Boys Academy – Cricket-Specific Development Framework



PACE BOWLING

Skill pillars across the pathway stages

U17 AGES 14–17 · LEARNING TO TRAIN

Safe action, accuracy and intent

- ◆ Repeatable, safe bowling action
- ◆ Momentum to the crease; body parts towards target
- ◆ Consistent seam presentation
- ◆ Stock-ball control and accuracy
- ◆ Field-setting literacy and basic tactics

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Technique monitoring; target bowling; consistency blocks; managed workloads

↓ PROGRESSES INTO

U19 AGES 17–19 · TRAINING TO COMPETE

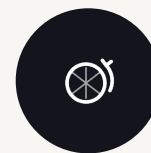
Execute defined roles

- ◆ New-ball, middle-overs or death role skills
- ◆ Yorkers and effective slower balls
- ◆ Improved accuracy and tactical discipline
- ◆ Performing to plan under pressure
- ◆ Bowling load and recovery management

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Role-based bowling blocks; pressure simulations

Source: Canterbury Boys Academy – Cricket-Specific Development Framework



SPIN BOWLING

Skill pillars across the pathway stages

U17 AGES 14–17 · LEARNING TO TRAIN

Ball performance first

- ◆ Spin the ball hard
- ◆ Reliable stock delivery
- ◆ Use of the crease and subtle pace change
- ◆ Basic field awareness
- ◆ Basic tactical understanding

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

High-repetition drills; bi-colour balls; game-based spin challenges

↓ PROGRESSES INTO

U19 AGES 17–19 · TRAINING TO COMPETE

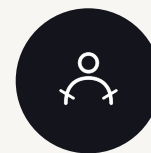
Control and deception

- ◆ Stock ball bowled to the field
- ◆ Purposeful, disguised variations
- ◆ Tactical awareness and match-up reading
- ◆ Confidence and composure when attacked
- ◆ Collaboration with the keeper

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Game-based spin sessions; keeper collaboration

Source: Canterbury Boys Academy – Cricket-Specific Development Framework



FIELDING

Skill pillars across the pathway stages

U17 AGES 14–17 · LEARNING TO TRAIN

Athleticism, technique and readiness

- ◆ Correct, repeatable throwing technique
- ◆ Catching fundamentals in all positions
- ◆ Attacking pick-up and clean hands
- ◆ Energy and standards in the field
- ◆ Positional movement awareness

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

High-intensity circuits; competitive, decision-based fielding games

↓ PROGRESSES INTO

U19 AGES 17–19 · TRAINING TO COMPETE

High-impact contribution

- ◆ Boundary awareness and execution
- ◆ Catching under pressure
- ◆ Run-out creation and pressure building
- ◆ Understanding of specialist positions
- ◆ Movement efficiency linked to role

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Specialist position training; match scenarios

Source: Canterbury Boys Academy – Cricket-Specific Development Framework



WICKET-KEEPING

Skill pillars across the pathway stages

U17 AGES 14–17 · LEARNING TO TRAIN

Core skills and pride in the craft

- ◆ Glove presentation and clean takes
- ◆ Standing-up footwork
- ◆ Tidiness around the stumps
- ◆ Clear communication with bowlers
- ◆ Keeping treated as a primary skill

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Dedicated keeping blocks; spin-specific sessions

↓ PROGRESSES INTO

U19 AGES 17–19 · TRAINING TO COMPETE

Lead the fielding unit

- ◆ Standing up under pressure
- ◆ Leadership and energy behind the stumps
- ◆ Tactical input and communication
- ◆ Consistency across formats and surfaces
- ◆ Partnership with spinners and seamers

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Keeper-led drills; pressure-based keeping

Source: Canterbury Boys Academy – Cricket-Specific Development Framework

AGES 18+: TRANSITION TO TRAIN TO WIN

The select pathway into senior performance cricket

01

Select pathway

A select group transitions into senior performance environments, backed by continued Academy support.

02

Individualised and role-driven

Preparation is individualised, role-specific and dominated by meaningful competition.

03

Athletes take ownership

Players own their preparation, professionalism, lifestyle and standards day to day.

04

Coaches as consultants

Coaches shift from instructors to performance consultants, with athlete-led PDPs and coach oversight.

Train to Win: athlete-led PDPs with coach oversight, aligned to performance outcomes

LTAD STAGE



LEARNING TO TRAIN

AGES 14–17



TRAINING TO COMPETE

AGES 17–19



TRAIN TO WIN

AGES 18+

CANTERBURY U17 BOYS CALENDAR 2026/27

Fixtures, training and selection dates for the U17 programme

○ Matches & fixtures

○ Training & conditioning

● Selection & tournaments

Date	Purpose	Venue
Sun 15 Nov	Red vs Black 50 over (game 1)	Hagley Nursery (TBC)
Sun 22 Nov	Red vs Black 50 over (game 2)	Hagley Nursery (TBC)
Mon 30 Nov & Tue 1 Dec	vs Otago U17 2-day game	The Willows
Fri 11 Dec	Final Selection for National Tournament Team	
Wed 16 Dec, 4–6pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora (TBC)
Sun 20 Dec	vs Canterbury U18 50 over (game 1)	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Tue 22 Dec, 11am–1pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora (TBC)
Sun 3 Jan	Training — Net Practice	Hagley Oval Nets (TBC)
Tue 6 Jan	vs Canterbury U18 50 over (game 2)	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Fri 8 Jan	Training — Net Practice/Culture	SRHSC Hagley Oval (TBC)
14–21 Jan	National Tournament	Lincoln University

SECTION 08 • CALENDAR

CANTERBURY U19 MEN'S CALENDAR 2026/27

The full 2026/27 season – October through to the March bi-series

○ Matches

○ Training & conditioning

● Selection & Tournaments

Date	Purpose	Venue
Sun 11 Oct	Red vs Black 50 over (game 1)	Hagley Nursery (TBC)
Wed 14 Oct, 4–5.30pm	Fielding & Conditioning	St Andrew's College
Sun 18 Oct	vs Canterbury Country A 50 over (game 1)	Darfield
Wed 21 Oct, 4–5.30pm	Fielding & Conditioning	St Andrew's College
Sun 25 Oct	Red vs Black game 2 50 over	Hagley Nursery (TBC)
Wed 28 Oct, 4–5.30pm	Fielding & Conditioning	St Andrew's College
Sun 1 Nov	Vs Country A 50 over (game 2)	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Wed 4 Nov, 4–5.30pm	Fielding & Conditioning	St Andrew's College
Sun 8 Nov	vs Canterbury Country A 2 x T20 (games 3 & 4)	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora (TBC)
Wed 11 Nov, 4–5.30pm	Fielding & Conditioning	St Andrew's College
Wed 18 Nov, 4–5.30pm	Fielding & Conditioning	St Andrew's College
Fri 27 Nov	Final Selection – Nationals	
Wed 2 Dec, 4–6pm	Training – Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Wed 16 Dec, 6–8pm	Training – Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Mon 21 Dec	Training – Centre Wicket Practice	Hagley Nursery (TBC)
Tue 29 Dec	Training – Net Practice	Hagley Oval Nets
Sat 2 Jan	Training – Net Practice/Culture	SRHSC Hagley Oval
4–11 Jan	National Tournament	Lincoln University
Sun 7 Mar	U19 Bi-Series: game 1	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Sun 14 Mar	U19 Bi-Series: game 2	Aorangi Oval, Timaru (TBC)

THE CANTERBURY WAY

Long-term development, clear standards, and a pathway open at every stage.

PLAYERS

Own your preparation, standards and PDP.

PARENTS

Support the long game, not the short-term result.

COACHES

Develop the player ahead of the result.