
CANTERBURY
CRICKET
FEMALE PATHWAY PROGRAMME
FEMALE PATHWAY HANDBOOK
2026-27
Welcome to the Canterbury Female 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 • WHITE FERNS

WELCOME

IN THIS HANDBOOK

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

CONTENTS

01 **The Female Player Pathway**
The full journey, club/school to WHITE FERNS

02 **In this Handbook**
A guide for players, parents and coaches across the Canterbury pathway

03 **The Female Pathway**
Every step from first game to the WHITE FERNS

04 **Selection & Talent Identification**
How players are identified and selected into the pathway

05-06 **Female Pathway Selection Process & Development Framework**
The principles behind how we develop players in the Canterbury Female Performance Pathway

07 **Ages 14–17 · Learning to Train**
Building foundations and capacity

08 **Ages 17–19 · Training to Compete**
Optimising readiness under pressure

09-13 **Skill Pillars**
Batting, pace, spin, fielding, wicket-keeping

14 **Ages 19+ · Transition to Train to Win**
The select pathway into senior cricket

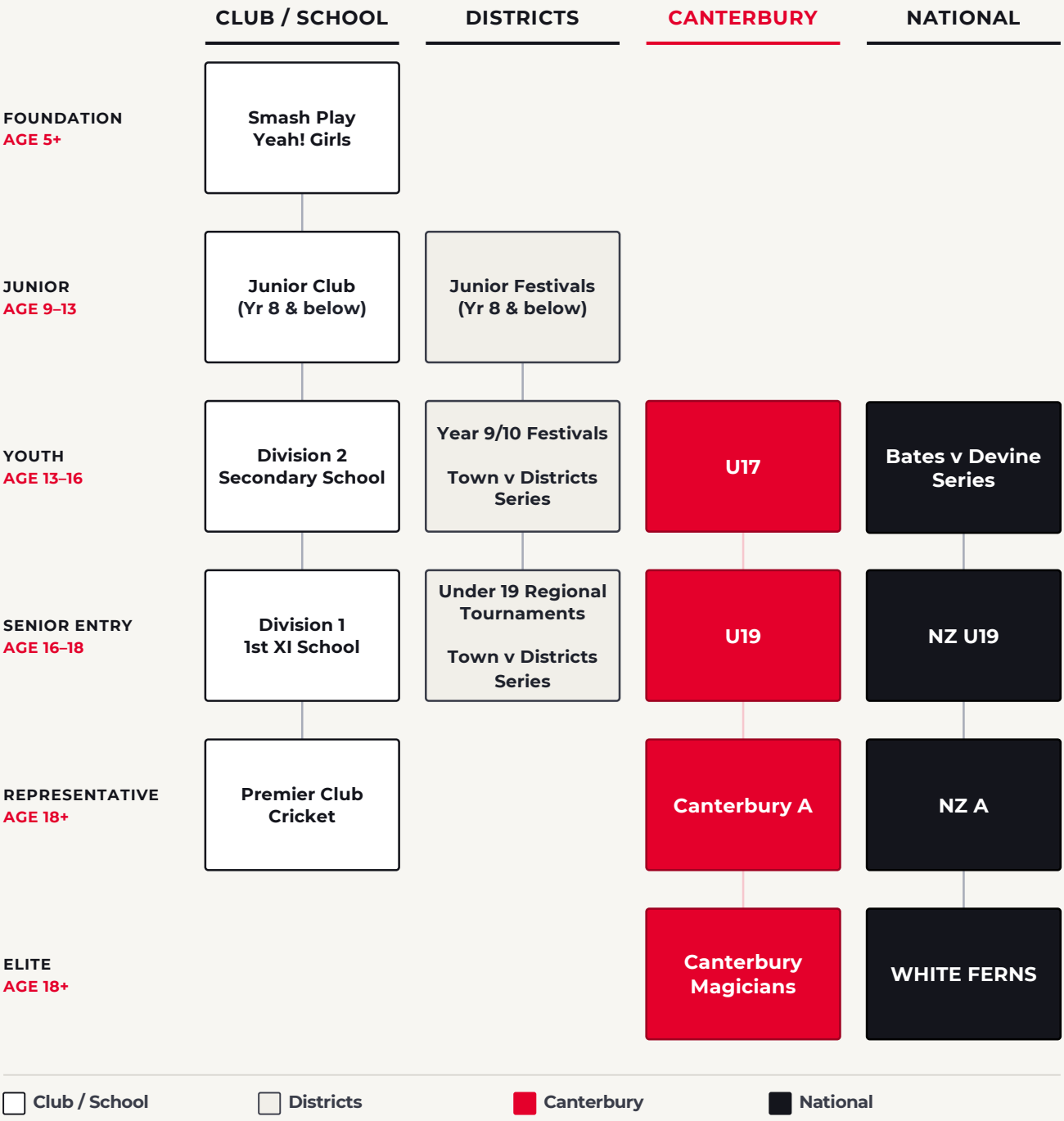
15-17 **Season Calendars**
U17, U19 and District & Canterbury A fixtures, training & selection dates

18 **The Canterbury Way**
Players, parents and coaches — our shared standard

SECTION 01

THE FEMALE PLAYER PATHWAY

Every step from first game to the WHITE FERNS — the pathway move down, and across



↑↓ **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.**

SECTION 02

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. Coaches from across these environments are engaged to support talent identification and highlight potential Players of Interest and Emerging Talent

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. Players are **Coachable**, **Competitive** and have **Athleticism**.

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

SECTION 02

FEMALE PATHWAY SELECTION PROCESS

This section shows which association is responsible for selecting which teams and the process.

U17 GIRLS — CANTERBURY SELECTION

SELECTION PANEL

- Head Coach Talent & Performance Pathways
- Female Pathways Coach
- U17 Girls Head & Assistant Coaches

U19 WOMEN — CANTERBURY SELECTION

SELECTION PANEL

- Head Coach Talent & Performance Pathways
- Female Pathways Coach
- U19 Women Head & Assistant Coaches

YEAR 9/10 FESTIVAL & REGIONAL U19 WOMEN — DISTRICT SELECTION

SELECTION PROCESS

- Self nomination from district social media posts

TOWN V DISTRICT U16 & U19 — DISTRICT SELECTION

SELECTION PROCESS

- District selection – coaches & management
- Canterbury Cricket Performance Pathways input

CANTERBURY COUNTRY · MID CANTERBURY · SOUTH CANTERBURY · CHRISTCHURCH METRO

SECTION 03

FEMALE PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The principles behind how we develop players in the Canterbury Female 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'

SECTION 04 · STAGE

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 (PDP)

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+

SECTION 05 · STAGE

AGES 17–19: TRAINING TO COMPETE

Optimising readiness and performing defined roles under pressure

LTAD STAGE

LEARNING TO TRAIN
AGES 14–17

TRAINING TO COMPETE
AGES 17–19

TRAIN TO WIN
AGES 18+

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

SECTION 06 · SKILL PILLAR

BATTING

Skill pillars across the pathway stages

U17 AGES 14–17 · LEARNING TO TRAIN

Sound, repeatable technique

- Balance base, still head, full-face contact
- Front and back-foot competence
- Strike rotation and clear, simple game plans
- Pick length and move accordingly
- Positive running between the wickets

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
- Competence against the moving ball and increasing pace
- Positive options to spin
- Can adapt game plans
- Decision-making under pressure
- Clarity of role and innings construction

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Match-tempo nets; scenario and chase simulations

SECTION 06 · SKILL PILLAR

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 ownership and basic tactics
- Clear stock ball strength

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 understanding
- Performing to plan under pressure
- Bowling load and recovery management

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Role-based bowling blocks; pressure simulations

SECTION 06 · SKILL PILLAR

SPIN BOWLING

Skill pillars across the pathway stages

U17 AGES 14–17 · LEARNING TO TRAIN

Ball performance first

- Repeatable and safe bowling action
- 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
- New-ball, middle-overs or death role skills
- Competent fielding off own bowling
- Confidence and composure when attacked
- Collaboration with the keeper

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Game-based spin sessions; keeper collaboration

SECTION 06 · SKILL PILLAR

FIELDING

Skill pillars across the pathway stages

U17 AGES 14–17 · LEARNING TO TRAIN

Athleticism, technique and readiness

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

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
- Run-out creation and pressure building
- Movement efficiency linked to role
- Throwing from a range of distances
- Increased competence diving, rolling and sliding
- Catching under pressure
- Understanding of specialist positions

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Specialist position training; match scenarios

SECTION 06 · SKILL PILLAR

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
- Confidence diving and rolling
- Support fielders with positioning and angles
- 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
- Standing back footwork
- Clear communication with bowlers
- Manage return throws
- Consistency across formats and surfaces

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

Keeper-led drills; pressure-based keeping

Source: Canterbury Boys Academy – Cricket-Specific Development Framework

SECTION 07 · STAGE

AGES 19+: TRANSITION TO TRAIN TO WIN

The select pathway into senior performance cricket

LTAD STAGE

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

LEARNING TO TRAIN
AGES 14–17

TRAINING TO COMPETE
AGES 17–19

TRAIN TO WIN
AGES 18+

SECTION 08 · CALENDAR

CANTERBURY U17 GIRLS' CALENDAR 2026/27

Fixtures, training and selection dates for the U17 programme

○ Matches & fixtures ○ Training & conditioning ● Selection & tournaments

Date	Purpose	Venue
Sat 14 Nov	Red vs Black | 40 over	Hagley Nursery
Sun 15 Nov	Red vs Black | 2 x T20 over	Hagley 3
Fri 11 Dec	**Final Selection for National Tournament Team**	
Tue 29 Dec, 4-6pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Tue 5 Jan, 4-6pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Thu 7 Jan, 4-6pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Tue 12 Jan, 4-6pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Thu 14 Jan, 4-6pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Sun 17 Jan, 10am-5pm	Training — Centre Wicket	Hagley Nursery
Tue 19 Jan, 4-6pm	Training — Net Practice	Hagley Oval Nets
24-27 Jan	**National Tournament**	**Lincoln University**

SECTION 08 · CALENDAR

CANTERBURY U19 WOMEN'S CALENDAR 2026/27

Fixtures, training and selection dates for the U19 programme

Matches Training & conditioning Selection & Tournaments

Date	Purpose	Venue
Thu 15 Oct, 4–6pm	Training — Net Practice	Hagley Oval Nets
Sun 18 Oct	vs NZ Veterans | 50 over	Hagley Nursery
Thu 22 Oct, 4–6pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Nets
Thu 29 Oct, 4–6pm	Training — Net Practice	Mainpower Nets
Tue 03 Nov	**Final Selection — Nationals**	
Thu 05 Nov, 4–6pm	Training — Net Practice	Hagley Oval Nets
Thu 12 Nov, TBC	Training — Centre Wicket Practice	Hagley Nursery
Thu 19 Nov, 4–6pm	Training — Net Practice	Hagley Oval Nets
Thu 26 Nov, TBC	Training — Centre Wicket Practice	Hagley Nursery
Thu 03 Dec, 4–6pm	Training — Net Practice	Hagley Oval Nets
6-13 Dec	**National Tournament**	**Lincoln University**

SECTION 08 · CALENDAR

OTHER FIXTURES

○ Matches ○ Training & conditioning ● Selection & Tournaments

Date	Purpose	Venue
Tue 17 Nov	Otago A vs Canterbury A | 50 over	Logan Park, Dunedin
Wed 18 Nov	Otago A vs Canterbury A | 50 over	Logan Park, Dunedin
Sat 09 Jan	Canterbury A vs Auckland A | T20	Elmwood Park, Christchurch
Sun 10 Jan	Canterbury A vs Auckland A | 50 over	Elmwood Park, Christchurch
Sun 7 Feb	Regional U19 Tournament	TBC
Mon 8 Feb	Regional U19 Tournament	TBC
Sun 21 Feb	U19 Town v District | 50 overs (Game 1)	Mandeville
Sun 21 Feb	U16 Town v District | 40 overs (Game 1)	Mandeville
Sun 7 Mar	U19 Town v District | 2 x T20 (Games 2 & 3)	Hagley Nursery
Sun 7 Mar	U16 Town v District | 2 x T20 (Games 2 & 3)	Hagley 3
Tue 02 Feb	Canterbury A vs Otago A | 50 over	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora
Wed 03 Feb	Canterbury A vs Otago A | 50 over	Mainpower Oval, Rangiora

SECTION 09

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.