

FURTHER INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

The Lord's Youth programme has been operational for three years, expanding from a single U13 boys team to include 2 squads each for U13 and U15 boys, and a squad for U17 boys. We have also introduced a girls section with squads for age groups from U11 to U17. Both boys' and girls' teams comprise county, district/borough, and strong club players. Weekly training is provided for those who make the squad, with games scheduled in the summer against representative sides from in and around London.

Our objective is to bridge the divide between club and county cricket, ensuring players have the foundational skills to succeed in professional cricket when opportunities arise. This places our program between county cricket and district/borough teams. We believe there is a significant gap in the cricket development pathway, limiting many players' chances to impress higher-level selectors. Our training sessions address often-overlooked areas for young players, including physical, mental, technical, and tactical aspects, and allow them to train against the strongest players in their age group.

TRIALS, SELECTION, TRAINING, AND THE SUMMER

Our trial process differs from typical pathway trials. We invite players to attend consecutive trials over a 3 or 4-week period, recognising that everyone can have an off day and may not showcase their best performance in a single session. This extended duration enables coaches to assess each player thoroughly and understand how best to support them. Trialists will also have the opportunity to observe the current squad sessions that follow immediately after the trial sessions. This will provide trialists with valuable insight into our training methods and expectations.

During the trials, players will be expected to showcase their primary skill. For instance, if they are bowlers, we will prioritise seeing them bowl. We will evaluate not only cricketing abilities but also mental, athletic, and non-cricketing skills. Our selection criteria will consider a broad range of skills, focusing on coachability, compatibility with team dynamics, and a commitment to personal improvement.

Players who were selected for the squad last December will not need to undergo trials again this upcoming season. In previous years, all players had to trial again, but this year we are introducing separate "squad training" and "trial" sessions. Squad members will be invited to participate in a 10-week training program from September to December, targeting specific areas identified from the previous summer's matches. Invitations to the squad sessions will be sent separately.

Squad selection will take place at the end of the trial period, and parents/guardians will be notified of the coaches' decisions before the conclusion of the school term in December 2024. Players chosen to join the squad for the 2025 season will be invited to participate in 10-12 weeks of training from January to April 2025, followed by summer matches and additional squad training sessions between September and December 2025.

It's essential to clarify that players currently in the 2024 squad are not assured of selection for the 2025 season. Both the 2024 squad members and trialists will undergo equal scrutiny during the selection process for the 2025 season. Should changes be deemed necessary, the coaches will provide guidance and support to players transitioning out of the programme for the 2025 season.

If selected, players will attend a two-hour practical session each week, providing them with the opportunity to interact with coaches, ask questions, and develop their individual playing styles. These sessions are designed to continuously challenge players to think critically, foster creativity, and solve problems on the field.

In addition to the practical cricket sessions, players will also participate in classroom-based sessions. Topics covered will include personal development, the psychological aspects of the game, and leadership skills. These classroom sessions were highly popular last year (a feature not always found in current pathway cricket), with players using them either as a pre-practical learning experience or for post-practical review.

During the summer, the squads will have the opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills in competitive matches against county, district/borough, and academy teams. This programme allows players to present themselves to coaches and selectors who may not have seen or heard of them before. These games provide players with a chance to demonstrate their abilities in a competitive environment against top talent from London and the surrounding areas.

Please note that the U17 boys' programme will primarily run during the winter, aimed at preparing players for adult cricket within their respective clubs. Lord's Youth games for the U17 age group are currently a work in progress and not guaranteed at this stage.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Cricket scholarships offer financial aid to young players based on their performance and potential in the sport, aiming to support their development and future in cricket. These opportunities are open to eligible candidates who demonstrate exceptional skill and dedication for the Lord's Youth programme. More information on this will be circulated to the parents/guardians at the time of invitation.

REGISTRATION – GENERAL

When completing the form on the website, please provide an honest reflection of the participant's skillset and current playing experience. This information is crucial for considering a player for a trial and potential selection to the squad, ensuring they benefit fully from the programme while participating safely.

REGISTRATION – VIDEO

Along with the traditional information that's required when filling in the form on the website, we also require a video of the player executing their skills.

The requirements of the video are as follows:

- A 5-minute video recorded in HD mode (1080p).
- The video should highlight the player performing their primary skill(s).
- Ensure the player is fully visible in the video.
- Videos shot from a long distance will not be accepted.
- For bowlers, the required perspective is either from behind the bowler or from the batter's perspective.
- For batters, the required perspective is from the umpire's position.
- For wicketkeepers, a front on and side on position is what is required.
- Please provide context for the video, including the age group, opposition, and format of the match.

REGISTRATION – PROFILE PHOTO

The profile photo should be taken in passport style.

