



**SURREY
CRICKET
FOUNDATION**



THE FUTURE OF JUNIOR CRICKET IN SURREY

CREATING ONE COUNTYWIDE STRUCTURE

ALEC STEWART OBE

DIRECTOR OF CRICKET

Surrey is steeped in cricketing history wherever you look. The Kia Oval was the birthplace of the Ashes back in 1882 and the ground has seen many iconic moments in the game play out over the years, with the Cricket World Cup and final Ashes Test to come this year as more history is written. The club network across Surrey is also laden with history with the very origins of the game linked to the Guildford area in the 1550s and many clubs having existed for over 200 years.

The grassroots in Surrey is absolutely key to the development of trophy winning teams at the Kia Oval and the fact that 16 of the current squad are graduates of Surrey's Academy is a reflection on this. We are extremely proud to be able to bring players through the club network into the Performance Department and then on into the Professional Game and we are grateful for all of the work you do to support us with this aim.

I strongly believe that the changes that are taking place will not only support the network of clubs, creating a junior competitions structure to be proud of, but will also help to ensure that Surrey can continue to nurture its own young players from the clubs across Surrey and South London through to the Kia Oval and Surrey and England representation.



Alec Stewart



PAUL TAYLOR

DIRECTOR OF CRICKET PARTICIPATION

We are incredibly proud of the recreational cricket network in Surrey. At the Foundation our mission is to 'Support and Improve' and each year we see a huge amount of work from a band of dedicated volunteers deliver great experiences for all those who want to play our beautiful game.

The 5 main current junior leagues have done great work over the past 20-30 years delivering junior cricket across Surrey and we thank them for their ongoing contribution to the success of junior cricket in our county. However, working collaboratively we believe now is the time to change and form one overall structure to deliver junior club competitions in Surrey moving forward.

We believe this change will enable us to deliver sustainability, consistency and growth of the game as we ensure we can continue to evolve and develop the game to meet the needs of its players.

There will, no doubt, be some teething problems as we roll out the new structure, but we believe that the long term benefits of creating this new organisation will far outweigh any short term glitches and ask that you work with us to help ensure that the new structure is a success we can all be very proud of.



Paul Taylor



CREATING ONE JUNIOR STRUCTURE

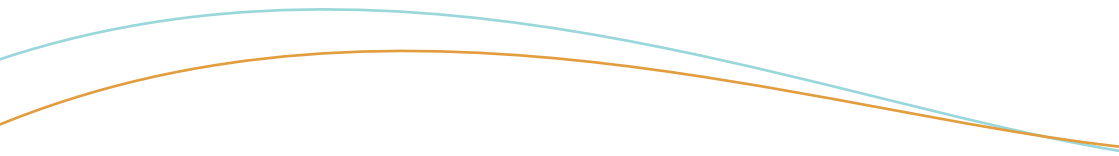
The current structure of junior cricket in Surrey sees 5 different junior leagues delivering the majority of junior cricket across Surrey. These leagues are:

- **Mid Surrey Colts League**
- **East Surrey Colts League**
- **Two Counties League**
- **North, East & Central Junior League**
- **West Surrey Youth Cricket League**

Alongside these existing leagues the Surrey Cricket Foundation delivers the Surrey Junior Invitation League and the Girls Smash It Leagues around the county and works closely with the Surrey Trust League who deliver their own competition aimed at transition and retention and also the U19 T20 Club Competition.

Following the release of ECB's Junior Cricket Format Recommendations U9-U11 it was felt that the time was right to have a wider discussion about the existing junior structure. The existing junior leagues have delivered a fantastic and dedicated service to junior cricket in Surrey over many years and this is acknowledged and celebrated. However, when we met with each league to discuss the proposal of creating one organisation to oversee junior cricket one question was posed – If you had a blank piece of paper how would you structure junior cricket in Surrey? It was clear that the current structure would not have been developed as it exists today, but has instead gradually evolved over time.

The new structure aims not only to continue the great work of the existing leagues, but also to take the junior game forward during an exciting time for cricket in Surrey. Fresh off the back of winning the County Championship and the Kia Super League and ahead of the implementation of ECB's new strategy 'Inspiring Generations', we have a fantastic opportunity to move forward together, delivering a new structure to enhance and develop the junior game in Surrey for many years to come.



There are several reasons behind the move towards one organisation explained in more detail below:

CONSISTENCY

The current picture sees 5 different leagues operate in 5 slightly different ways across the county. Creating one organisation will see a consistent approach taken across the county so that wherever you are playing your cricket there is a relevant format on offer for the young players in your club. Playing formats will also now be consistent across the county from pitch lengths to the number of overs bowled in an innings.

SUSTAINABILITY

Whilst some of the current league committees are settled and sustainable, a number of them are also at risk. In the current climate volunteer are not coming forward to help take these kinds of organisations forwards as has been seen at both the Two Counties and Mid Surrey League AGMs this year. We believe that by pooling the entry fees from all the leagues we will be able to generate sufficient revenue to make the competition management element sustainable via an employed person which will free up the volunteers involved to become much more strategic in their roles. The governance of the organisation will ensure that succession planning is a key consideration throughout the organisation.

SPEED OF CHANGE

The current structure does not allow for the game to evolve as quickly as it needs, with any change needing to be influenced and negotiated multiple times. The governance of the new structure will enable the management team to deliver change much more effectively and efficiently for the benefit of the clubs and players across Surrey.



CENTRAL DELIVERY IS PROVEN

A number of competitions within Surrey have already been delivered via a central model which has proven successful. This includes the girls' leagues across Surrey as well as the Surrey Junior Invitation League. These have seen consultative approaches taken to rule changes and feedback rather than a member-club voting based system.

ECONOMIES OF SCALE

Across the new competition we expect to receive upwards of 1000 entries each year which opens the opportunity to negotiate better deals on cricket balls, equipment and clothing.

ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology is a key area that will bring further benefits under the new structure. From fixture management to improved communication we believe the consistent adoption of technology within the new structure will bring benefits to all stakeholders involved.

COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

The potential reach of the new competition for a commercial sponsor will be extensive with over 1000 entries meaning upwards of 11,000 young people playing the game. Attracting a major sponsor for the new competition will be much easier under one organisation, supported closely by the Surrey brand.



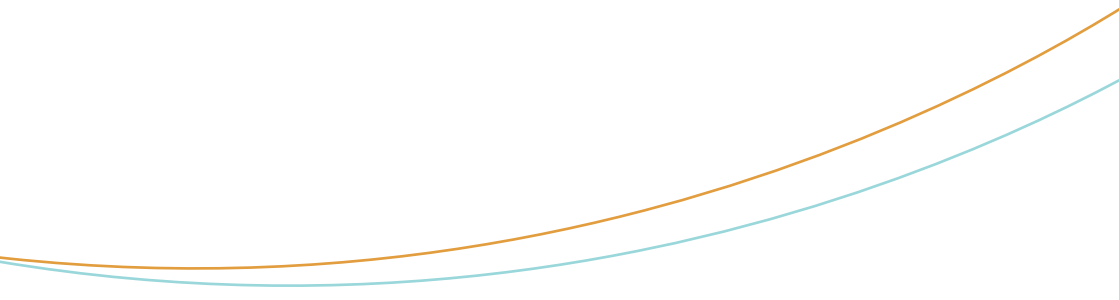
THE SURREY CRICKET JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

PROVIDING PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN SURREY

The new organisation will be accountable to the Surrey Cricket Foundation and will consist of a management team with a number of sub groups sitting below. The management team will consist of 3 executives from the Surrey Cricket Foundation and at least 5 volunteers from the club network, ensuring that the organisation continues to be led by volunteers. Further details of the structure and its constitution will be released in due course.

From a governance perspective clubs and other relevant organisations will be able to enter the competition on a yearly basis, but will not be deemed members of the organisation as such. As part of ensuring the new structure can react to change quickly clubs will not have voting rights within the new structure, but will instead be engaged in consultation on an ongoing basis to help shape the playing formats and rule changes that are rolled out each year. This model has already been successfully implemented with the girls' competitions, the U19 T20 and the Surrey Junior Invitation League.

The finances of the new organisation will be managed by the Surrey Cricket Foundation in a restricted fund. This means the income received from entries (and anything else such as balls) will be ring fenced so it can only be spent on the costs of delivering the new structure. The Trustees of the Surrey Cricket Foundation have designated £30,000 from the Foundation's grant giving pot to help get the new structure operational. Reporting on the financial management of the new structure will be made available on an annual basis to the clubs involved in the structure to ensure financial transparency.



PLAYING FORMATS

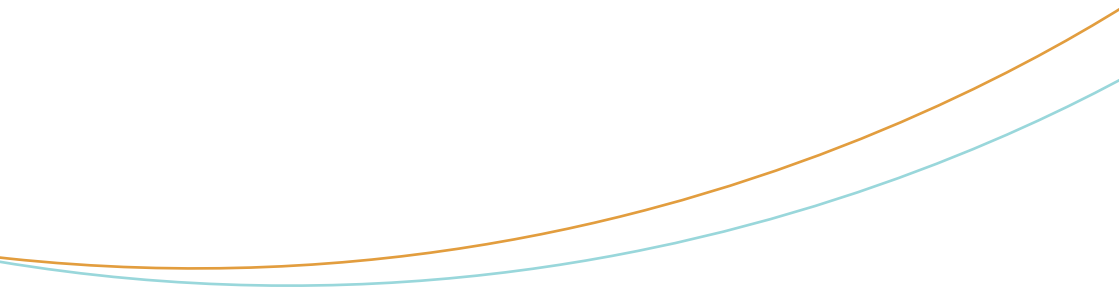
THE CONTEXT

Before diving into the new formats available at each age group it is worth providing some context as to how they have been developed.

Each existing league has its own set of formats and playing conditions so bringing all 5 current junior cricket leagues together means we have had to create a new playing format structure across the county. This has been created in close consultation with the current leagues with the aim of trying to pull together all the best elements of the current formats into new county wide formats. The overall aim has been to create different tiers (working title!) that clubs can consider entering based on the experience and ability of their players.

At the lower tiers the idea will be to keep the cricket as local as possible when it comes to creating the divisions. However, as clubs enter the tiers aimed at more experienced players, we envisage that travel distance will increase, with the top tiers at U13-U15 requiring county wide travel for Sunday fixtures in order to facilitate the best possible standards of cricket. It is also worth noting that we expect to offer a variety of festival (mainly at the younger age groups), league and cup opportunities within the structure.

There are some existing county wide competitions that will be joining the new structure. The girls leagues are currently managed and delivered centrally by the Surrey Cricket Foundation and will come across initially in their current format. Likewise, the Surrey Trust League and U19T20 Club competition will in effect 'plug in' to the new structure as important retention and transitional formats of cricket as you will see within the information that follows.



ALL STARS FESTIVALS

All Stars Cricket is now providing cricket to 5-8 year olds at over 50 centres across Surrey with around 3000 children involved each year. The All Stars Festivals will be offered as a way of providing a transition from All Stars Cricket into the match play cricket at U8 upwards.

The All Stars Festivals will be a skill-based event where several clubs come together to take part. During the course of a morning or afternoon the clubs will take part in a range of activities covering the key cricketing skills (catching, throwing, batting, bowling and games).

Resources will be created to ensure that clubs have all the information they need to run a festival and the onus will be on development and fun, rather than crowning a winning club at the end of the festival. The club resource will include guidance and support on how individual players can be rewarded on their own development and effort.



U8 / U9



NO.
PLAYERS



PITCH
(YDS)



BALL



MATCH
LENGTH



MATCH
FORMAT



BOUNDARY
SIZE (YDS)

FESTIVALS	6	15	Soft	12	Pairs	25-30
SOFTBALL	6 ⁽¹⁾	15	Soft	12	Pairs	25-30
HARDBALL	8 ⁽²⁾	17	Hard	16	Pairs	25-30

U10



NO.
PLAYERS



PITCH
(YDS)



BALL



MATCH
LENGTH



MATCH
FORMAT



BOUNDARY
SIZE (YDS)

SOFTBALL	8 ⁽³⁾	17	Soft	16	Pairs	30-35
TIER 3	8 ⁽³⁾	17	Hard	16	Pairs	35-40
TIER 2	8 ⁽³⁾	17	Hard	20	Pairs	35-40
TIER 1	8 ⁽³⁾	17	Hard	20 ⁽⁴⁾	Standard	40-45

(1) Option of 8, (2) Option of 6, (3) Option of 10, (4) Option of 25

U11



NO.
PLAYERS



PITCH
(YDS)



BALL



MATCH
LENGTH



MATCH
FORMAT



BOUNDARY
SIZE (YDS)

SOFTBALL	8	17	Soft	16	Pairs	30-35
TIER 3	8	17	Hard	16	Pairs	35-40
TIER 2	8 ⁽¹⁾	17	Hard	20	Standard	40-45
TIER 1	8 ⁽¹⁾	17	Hard	20 ⁽²⁾	Standard	40-45

U12



NO.
PLAYERS



PITCH
(YDS)



BALL



MATCH
LENGTH



MATCH
FORMAT



BOUNDARY
SIZE (YDS)







TIER 3	10	18	Hard	20	Pairs	45-50
TIER 2	11	18	Hard	20	Standard	45-50
TIER 1	12 ⁽³⁾	18	Hard	25	Standard	45-50

(1) Option of 10, (2) Option of 24, (3) Only 11 bat

U13

	 NO. PLAYERS	 PITCH (YDS)	 BALL	 MATCH LENGTH	 MATCH FORMAT	 BOUNDARY SIZE (YDS)
SOFTBALL	8	19	Soft	16	Pairs	40
TIER 3	11	19	Hard	20	Standard	45-55
TIER 2	11	19	Hard	20	Standard	45-55
TIER 1	12 ⁽¹⁾	19	Hard	25	Standard	45-55

U14

	 NO. PLAYERS	 PITCH (YDS)	 BALL	 MATCH LENGTH	 MATCH FORMAT	 BOUNDARY SIZE (YDS)
TIER 3	11	21	Hard	20	Standard	50-55
TIER 2	11	21	Hard	20 ⁽²⁾	Standard	50-55
TIER 1	12 ⁽¹⁾	21	Hard	30	Standard	50-55

(1) Only 11 bat, (2) Option of 24

U15



NO.
PLAYERS



PITCH
(YDS)



BALL



MATCH
LENGTH



MATCH
FORMAT



BOUNDARY
SIZE (YDS)

SOFTBALL	8	22	Soft	16	Pairs	40-50
TIER 3	11	22	Hard	20	Standard	55-60
TIER 2	11	22	Hard	20	Standard	55-60
TIER 1	12 ⁽¹⁾	22	Hard	30	Standard	55-60

15+



NO.
PLAYERS



PITCH
(YDS)



BALL



MATCH
LENGTH



MATCH
FORMAT









BOUNDARY
SIZE (YDS)

U16	11	22	Hard	20	Standard	Open
U17 DENNIS JACOBS	11	22	Hard	20	Standard	Open
U19 T20 BLAST	11	22	Hard	20	Standard	Open
SURREY TRUST LEAGUE	11	22	Hard	40	Standard	Open

(1) Only 11 bat

GIRLS

	 NO. PLAYERS	 PITCH (YDS)	 BALL	 MATCH LENGTH	 MATCH FORMAT	 BOUNDARY SIZE (YDS)
U6-U9 Festivals	6	15	Soft	12	SMASH IT ⁽¹⁾	25-30
U8-U11 Festivals	8	17	Soft	16	SMASH IT ⁽¹⁾	25-30
U11 Smash IT League	8	17	Soft	16	SMASH IT ⁽¹⁾	25-30
U13 Smash IT League	10	19	Soft	20	SMASH IT ⁽¹⁾	30-35
U13 Lady Taverners	8	19	Hard	20	Standard	40-45
U14 Development Hardball	8 ⁽²⁾	20	Hard	16	Standard	30-40
U15 Hardball	9 ⁽²⁾	20	Hard	16	Standard	40-45
U15 Lady Taverners	8	20	Hard	20	Standard	50-55
U19 T20 Hardball	11 ⁽³⁾	20	Hard	20	Standard	45-55

(1) Smash It is a twist on pairs cricket where it's pair vs pair as well as team vs team, (2) Can play up to 11, (3) Can reduce to 8



TIMESCALES

June 2018 –

Individual meetings with junior leagues

July 2018 –

All junior leagues come together to form working group

November/December 2018 –

Presentations delivered at all Junior League AGMs

February/March 2019 –

Presentations delivered to Club Forum attendees

April/May 2019 –

further consultation events to be held

September/October 2019 –

New structure launches

November 2019 –

Entries open

December 2019 –

Entries close

April/May 2020 –

First matches played in new structure

GET IN TOUCH

In addition to the consultation events detailed within the timescales above we do want to hear from you if you have any questions, queries or ideas you think might benefit the new structure.

SIMON HARDS

Cricket Participation and Business Development Manager

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Tel: 07824 866804

CONSULTATION EVENTS

If you would like to come along to learn more about the new structure and to give your views and suggestions, please book via the link below:

Wednesday 17th April

Reigate Priory Cricket Club (8.30-10pm)

Wednesday 24th April

Surrey Cricket Centre, Guildford (7-9pm)

Thursday 2nd May

The Kia Oval, London (7-9pm)

Book here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JuniorConsultation>

