



# THE ACADEMY

*The Auckland Cricket Talent Development Programme*

# INTRODUCTION

The Auckland Cricket Academy is the cornerstone of our talent development programme.

It is designed to take some of Auckland's best identified talent and put them in a learning environment that challenges and educates them on the rigors of cricket both on and off the field, while allowing them the space to develop at their own speed.

We have moved away from the historical chronological age brackets as we understand cricket is a sport that does not follow linear development. Instead, our new academy aligns stages to an individual athletes development and challenges them in environments best suited to them as a player.

By integrating how we develop our talent and our High Performance programmes we aim to create a clear and sustainable talent development pipeline that provides our ACES and HEARTS with ready to go cricketer's.

# PURPOSE

To provide the most appropriate learning environment to realise a player's full capabilities, and that turns potential into reality.

It is about making sure we make the right investment, in the right players, at the right time.

# TALENT PATHWAY

A continual cycle of identification, development and performance are the building blocks of our talent pathway.



# UNDERSTANDING DEVELOPMENT

Our Academy is designed as a key pillar of our Talent Development environments. It is underpinned and supported by our Talent Identification processes and systems. These are two distinct, yet equally important, pieces of our Talent Pathway.

Our TID environments aim to give us as much objective and supported data on a player's current and potential position. This allows our Academy and other Talent Development environments to better create targeted learning.

## TALENT IDENTIFICATION

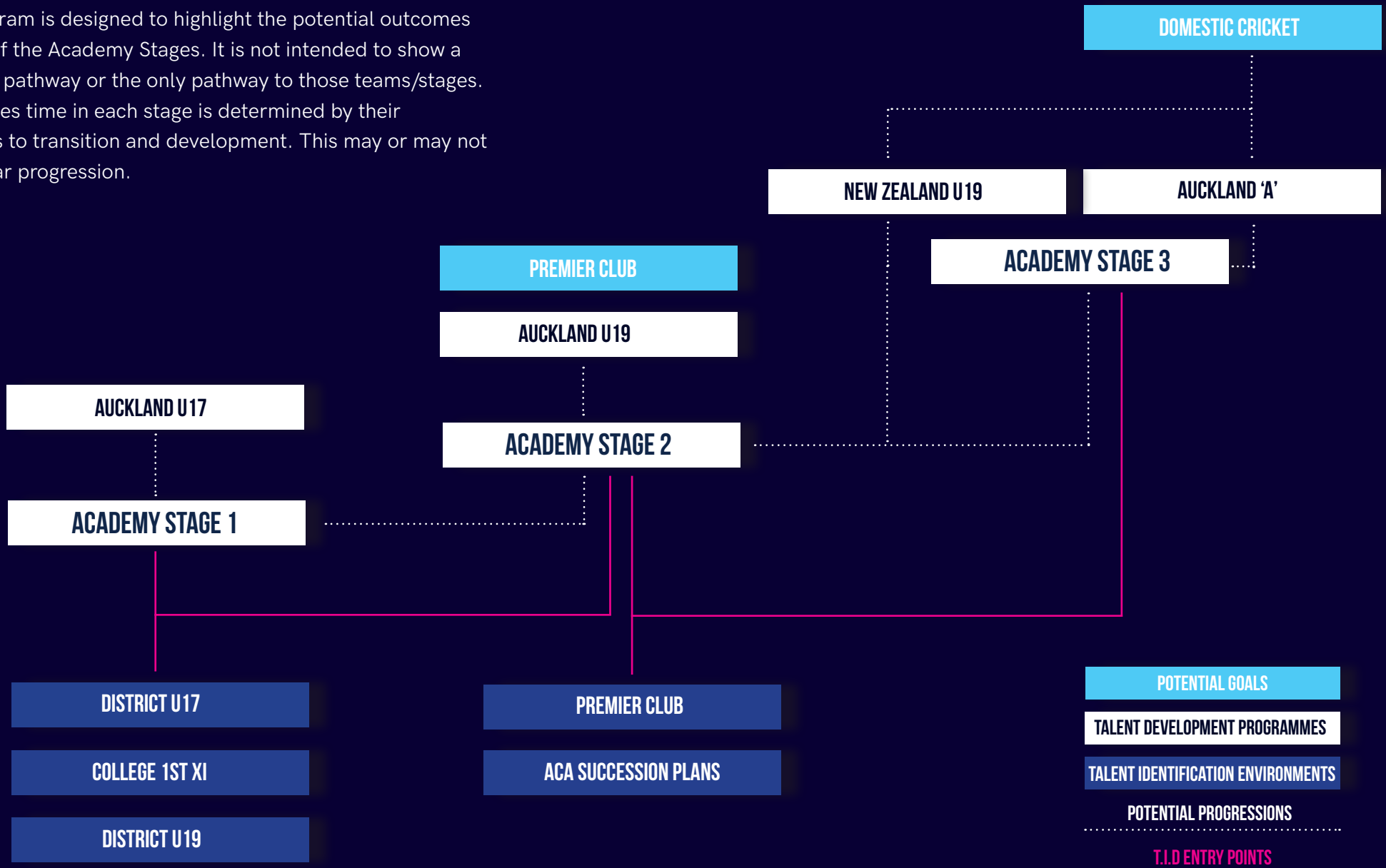
- Not based solely on performance
- Primarily uses the sunflower model to collate information from a wide group of stakeholders
- Follows the more eyes, more often approach
- About understanding potential
- Can begin at any age but we aim to target the 15-17 year olds. Always based on the development stage of the athlete
- May not be public knowledge
- Can be a wide variety of environments - both in cricket and outside

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT

- Based on creating a continual learning environment
- Uses the sunflower model as basis for IPP
- Hands on
- Multiple learning opportunities through training and games
- We aim to begin our development programmes at U17 level
- Always based on the age and stage of the athlete
- The environment is more cricket specific and really important to get right to ensure development focus.

# ACADEMY FRAMEWORK

This diagram is designed to highlight the potential outcomes of each of the Academy Stages. It is not intended to show a selection pathway or the only pathway to those teams/stages. An Athletes time in each stage is determined by their readiness to transition and development. This may or may not be a linear progression.



# STAGE ONE - POTENTIAL

## PHILOSOPHY

Allowing athletes to explore a variety of elements of their game and the game in general - both technical and tactical. An environment where exploration and discovery of new ideas and methods/skills is encouraged and fostered.

## WHO

At this stage, we are targeting players who have an identified ability. They show great potential to develop and have shown through performances, an ability to read and understand the game.

## PURPOSE

To introduce and develop players on the fundamentals of professional cricket. Enabling them the best opportunity to be selected for the Auckland U17 side and/or Stage two of the Academy.

# STAGE OUTLINE

## SESSIONS

The programme will focus on fundamentals across all tactical and technical aspects of cricket. It will introduce Mental skills to the players and begin to create a solid foundation of strength and conditioning, self reliance and self motivation.

## TIMES / DAYS

Stage One will have 8 weeks of two sessions a week plus 2 game days

Wednesday Nights  
Friday Nights

September - October  
September - October

# STAGE TWO - PROMISE

## PHILOSOPHY

Specialising our skills and methods to refine our abilities and create excellent players. Athletes will have a strong understanding of their own styles and methods and will be challenged through scenario based trainings to test those out against all sorts of variations and skill sets.

## WHO

At this stage, we are targeting athletes who have been identified via succession planning and performances to be future Domestic level players. They are currently playing Premier Club cricket, Auckland and/or District U19, College 1st XI or equivalent.

## PURPOSE

To develop the players further around the rigors of professional cricket and to put them in the best position to be selected for Auckland U19, NZ U19, Premier Club and/or Stage 3 of the Academy.

# STAGE OUTLINE

## SESSIONS

It will focus on creating an understanding of the requirements of professional cricket both in training and off the field. We will build on the foundations of Stage One around mental skills, S&C, pre-hab and re-hab processes.

## TIMES / DAYS

Stage Two has two coaching blocks and 2 game days;  
1x 8 week block and 1x 6 week block

Sunday Afternoons	5pm-8pm	Block 1 September - Late October
Sunday	Game Day/s	Block 2 Mid Jan - Late Feb Early December

# STAGE THREE - PERFORMANCE

## PHILOSOPHY

Athletes are challenged in their abilities and decision making through an HP environment. They are pushed through competition and self motivation. Athletes train and are part of our HP set-up wherever possible.

## WHO

At this stage, we are targeting athletes who are on the cusp of Domestic Level Cricket. They are identified through our ACES and HEARTS succession plans and are regularly playing 'A' level and Premier Club level Cricket.

## PURPOSE

To prepare athletes for a transition to professional cricket. To understand and live the lifestyle of training and playing cricket. It is designed to give players the best chance to perform for our 'A' side and be selected for National Age Group or Domestic representation.

# STAGE OUTLINE

## SESSIONS

Sessions are designed to be as closely aligned to our ACES and HEARTS programmes as possible. Players will integrate where available into ACES and HEARTS trainings and will follow Physio, S&C, Mental Skills, Wellbeing models.

## TIMES / DAYS

Stage Three has 3x Coaching blocks but continues to run throughout the 12 months This is supported by 'A' level fixtures and ACES/HEARTS programmes.

Monday Nights

4pm-9pm

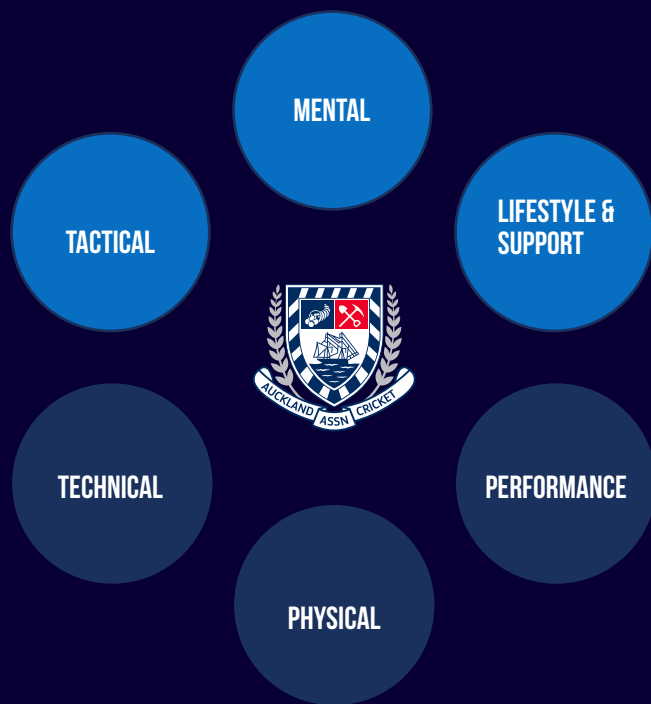
Block 1 Late August - Mid October  
Block 2 Mid Nov - Mid Dec  
Block 3 February

# ACADEMY TID MODEL

The model by which we identify and track participants within the Academy programme and also potential players outside of our programmes is the NZC Sunflower model, adapted to suit Auckland Crickets needs. Focusing on 6 key pillars with equal weighting between them.

This model is the cornerstone of how we identify players, track progress, create individual plans and communicate to players, parents and coaches.

The Auckland Cricket Academy is built around a holistic view of player development where all parts of this model are considered when getting to know a player and the stage of development they currently sit.



## EXAMPLES OF - BUT NOT LIMITED TO

<b>MENTAL</b>	Inner Drive, Self Awareness, Coachable, Resilience, Leadership of Self
<b>TACTICAL</b>	Game Sense, Decision Making, Leadership
<b>LIFESTYLE &amp; SUPPORT</b>	Family, Sport outside of Cricket, Education, Life Balance
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	How Many, How Often, Against Whom, When, How, Where
<b>PHYSICAL</b>	Athleticism, Physical Maturation, Body Type, Training Age
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	Hand-Eye Coordination, Good Basics, Balance



# ACADEMY SELECTION PROCESS

The strength of our Talent Development programme will be built on the success of our Talent identification environments. Ensuring we are gathering the right information on the right people is key.

## TALENT IDENTIFICATION ENVIRONMENTS

DISTRICT U17

COLLEGE 1ST XI

DISTRICT U19

PREMIER CLUB

### INFORMATION GATHERED & TALENT LIST CREATED

Scouting and Talent information gathered out of the TID environments above to create Talent list. Information gathered over the course of a year;

- Training ability and Performances.
- Technical and Tactical aptitude.
- Succession plans and Sunflower info

- Scouting Reports
- Academy Player Review from previous intake
- College TID Advisor succession plan
- U17/U19 Coaches feedback
- ACES and HEARTS Coaches feedback

### SELECTION PANEL MEET

The Academy Selection Panel is made up of;

- TID Manager, High Performance Manager and ACES and Hearts Coach/es

The Panels duties are to;

With input where required from;  
ACA U17 and U19 Coaches, College TID Advisor

- Assess the Talent List against our Skills Matrix
- Assess the Talent list against our Academy Criteria
- Establish a player list for each of the stages (1,2,3)

### PLAYER COMMUNICATION

The TID Manager will then communicate the invitation to the selected players

- The costs, timings and commitments required for the Academy.

The invitation will outline;

- The reasoning for the selection

The TID Manager will also communicate to those on our Talent List who have missed out and provide clarification around the decision.

### PLAYER ACCEPTANCE

Players will have 1 week to either accept or decline the invitation to the Academy. By accepting the invitation players will need to sign and commit to the programmes guidelines and commitment protocols.

### ACADEMY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACA will formally announce each of the Academies successful participants via its website and social media platforms.

# ACADEMY SELECTION CRITERIA

While we understand the non-linear nature of development and that cricket is an open sport, we have set some key benchmarks for players to meet if they are to be eligible for the Academy. These are to be taken as a guide for players, as we reserve the right to select players who may not meet all of the criteria required at a certain stage based on their own developmental needs.

## NON NEGOTIABLE FOR ALL STAGES

Behaviors and Actions that align with a High Performance Athlete;  
Openness to a variety of teaching and learning styles;  
Willingness to be challenged and to challenge yourself;  
Growth Mindset;  
Commitment and attendance.

## STAGE TWO

Currently playing District U19, College 1st XI, Premier Club or equivalent.  
Performances within the last 12 months;  
Identification through ACA scouting, sunflower and succession plans;  
Potential to play Domestic level Cricket;  
Completed Sunflower

## STAGE ONE

Currently playing District U17, College 1st XI or equivalent  
Performances within the last 12 months;  
Identification through ACA scouting, sunflower and succession plans;  
Completed Sunflower

## STAGE THREE

Currently playing Premier Club, NZ Age group, Auckland 'A' or equivalent.  
Performances within the last 12 months;  
Identification through ACES and HEARTS scouting and succession plans;  
Potential to play Domestic level Cricket within 12 months  
Completed and 'live' Sunflower

*The selection panel will take into account all cricket played and during the year may decide to add, remove or change a players stage based off the needs of the player and their development. This will be done in consultation with the player and any relevant stakeholders.*