

2025/2026

SOMERSET PLAYER PATHWAY BOYS PATHWAY HANDBOOK



PLAYER PATHWAY





INTRODUCTION

MATT DRAKELEY | DIRECTOR OF TALENT & WOMEN'S PERFORMANCE

In 2020, Somerset County Cricket Club (SCCC) made a significant move by taking over the running of all Pathway cricket from Somerset Cricket Board. This transition aimed to align our Pathway with the intentions of SCCC, providing more players with the opportunity to be identified, developed, and inspired within our programme. Since this handover, we've seen a rise in training hours by almost a third and a corresponding increase in player numbers. In the past year, we assessed over 1,200 players across both the boys' and girls' programmes for the Somerset Pathway.

In 2021, we introduced the Wyverns programme and the MCC hub programme. The Wyverns programme was designed to offer more players the chance to be a part of the Somerset Pathway, whilst the MCC Hub programme was created to bridge the access divide between private and state school cricketers. This year, we've introduced an additional Under 18 group and expanded the MCC Foundation programme, along with launching our expanded state school programme last winter.

The structure of our programmes spans from the Foundation Phase (U10-U12) to the Youth Development Phase (U13 - U15) and the Senior Development Phase (U16 - U18) for boys. These groups feed into the Emerging Players Programme and Somerset Academy, with the ultimate goal of inspiring and developing cricketers from across the South West to reach the highest level of cricket that they can.

Our philosophy centres on providing as many opportunities to players as possible in an environment that is representative of the game they play. We aim to teach not only the fundamentals of cricket but also the holistic aspects that will support them in every game they play. We strive to create a lifelong affinity for cricket, a strong understanding of personal development, and happy memories of their opportunities within the Pathway.

Although only around 8% of our 275 players that have earned a place within the Pathway this winter will end up being offered an Academy place, and less than 3% will end up being offered a professional contract, we believe that the value of our programme extends beyond professional cricket.

As we look to the future, Somerset County Cricket Club takes immense pride in our commitment to nurturing the next generation of cricketers. Our dedication extends not just to those who will make cricket their profession, but to all who pass through our programme. We strive to instil in them a love for the sport, the skills to excel, and the resilience to face any challenge, both on and off the field. Our ultimate aspiration is to see each player grow, not just as a cricketer, but as a person, cherishing their time spent within the Somerset Cricket Pathway.

PURPOSE & AIMS

PRIMARY PURPOSE

To identify, develop and inspire high potential young cricketers across Somerset.

ADDITIONAL PURPOSES

- Produce high potential young cricketers to go on to the Somerset EPP and Academy
- Use the Pathway as a vehicle to develop people and provide them with transferable skills
- To inspire players to stay involved with cricket in the region beyond the Pathway



PATHWAY STRUCTURE

Senior Development Phase

U18 County Age Group
15 Players

U16 County Age Group
15 Players

Academy

EPP

Youth Development Phase

U15 County Age Group
18 Players

U15 Wyverns
10 Players

U14 County Age Group
18 Players

U14 Wyverns
10 Players

U13 County Age Group
18 Players

U13 Wyverns
18 Players

Foundation Phase
Players in this phase are evenly distributed across two training groups

U12 Trescothick
24 Players

U12 Botham
24 Players

U11 Hildreth
24 Players

U11 Caddick
24 Players

U10 Gimblett
24 Players

U10 Atkinson
24 Players

Numbers beneath each age group indicate approximate number of players selected each winter.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

EMERGING PLAYERS PROGRAMME

The Emerging Player Programme (EPP) is an extended part of the cricket Pathway with an aim of identifying and providing opportunities to players from County Age Group cricket who have potential to go on to the Somerset Academy.

Players are selected for the EPP based on their future potential and how likely their skills are to transfer appropriately into higher levels of cricket. Each year, approximately twelve players are selected for the EPP between the U13-U16 age groups.

With a pool to select from of over 100 players this equates to an average 10% chance of getting onto the EPP from those selected for U13-U16 Pathway cricket.

THE SOMERSET ACADEMY

The Somerset Academy is recognised as one of the most successful county cricket academies in the country. Over the years the Academy has produced many players who now excite and entertain Somerset supporters.

Within the past five years; James Rew, Kasey Aldridge, Will Smeed and Tom Lammomby are amongst the young players to break into the 1st XI. Joining other Academy graduates like; Tom Banton, Lewis Goldsworthy, Craig Overton and Lewis Gregory alongside club captain Tom Abell.

The Somerset Academy encompasses the South West region with players from Somerset, Devon and Cornwall all aspiring for a place on the Academy in their U15 - U18 years.

This leaves a pool of over 200 players competing for a place on the Academy each year, a less than 4% chance.

The Somerset Academy aims to:

- Develop the highest potential young players from across the South West into high performing professional cricketers for Somerset.
- Support all aspects of a players development with an individualised and multi-disciplinary programme.
- Make sure players leave the Academy having developed as cricketers and people with dual career aspirations

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SOMERSET STATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

In 2024, The Somerset State School Programme, made significant strides in increasing cricket coaching available to Pathway players attending state schools.

The initiative aims to ensure that young cricketers from state schools receive the same opportunities and high-quality coaching as their peers from the independent sector. In its first year the programme catered for 124 players across the boys' and girls' programmes, providing each with an additional 24 hours of coaching on top of their County Age Group programme.

This extra coaching is crucial for enhancing players skills and ensuring they are not left behind in their development. The sessions are held at Weston College, a facility recently upgraded with new cricket nets, located conveniently just off the M5, making it accessible to a large portion of the county.

The programme is managed by Thom Bunker, our State School Lead Coach. His role is not just about coaching but also about identifying talented players from state

school backgrounds and integrating them into the Pathway. His leadership ensures the programme aligns with our player development goals and provides targeted support to those who need it most.

This initiative has not only enhanced the skills of these players but also broadened our understanding of their potential. The State School Programme initially targets players from under 11s to under 16s, focusing on where we can make the most significant impact.

The winter programme runs from November through April, followed by a summer programme starting in early May. The summer sessions focus on providing match play opportunities against club and school opposition, which is vital for the practical application of skills learned during training.



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOYS MCC FOUNDATION PROGRAMME & REGIONAL STATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME



The MCC Foundation and Somerset County Cricket Club have worked in partnership since 2021.

This partnership is pivotal in ensuring that young state school boys (U13-U15) who miss out on Pathway programme selection still have access to high-quality coaching and competitive match play, providing them with opportunities to reach their potential.

At Somerset, the Boys MCC Foundation Programme is managed by our Boys Foundation Phase & State School Lead, Thom Bunker. His leadership ensures that the programme is aligned to our player pathway.



The Somerset Regional State School Programme ensures that young state school boys (U10-U12) who miss out on Pathway programme selection still have access to high-quality coaching and competitive match play, providing them with opportunities to reach their potential.

At Somerset, this programme is managed by our Boys Foundation Phase & State School Lead, Thom Bunker. His leadership ensures that the programme is aligned to our player pathway.

CAG & WYVERNS

This section provides clarity on what skills we look to develop in the County Age Group and Wyverns stage of the Pathway.



Rothesay

Rothesay

Rothesay

FRAMEWORK

WHAT IS IT AND WHY WAS IT INTRODUCED?

The Pathway Framework was introduced in 2020 with the aim of providing a roadmap for Pathway players, coaches throughout the club & school network, and parents alike to have a greater understanding of the Pathway development journey.

The Framework is essentially a blueprint which outlines the key skills and competencies players should aspire to demonstrate at each stage of their development within the Somerset Pathways. It is structured in a way that ensures progressive learning, starting with establishing an understanding of core skills at the Foundation Phase, developing them during the Youth Development Phase and demonstrating them as they progress into the Senior Development Phase. This progressive structure of the Framework ensures that players are continually challenged and engaged, promoting consistent growth and development.

The Somerset Pathway programme is built from the Framework, allowing us to create

an aligned, age group specific, coaching curriculum that ensures players have the opportunity to develop all aspects of the Framework across the winter and summer. The creation of this coaching curriculum ensure that all aspects of a player's game are developed and that no critical skills are overlooked. By providing a clearer understanding of the areas of development at each phase it is hoped that players have a greater ability to also develop relevant skills outside of formal Pathway training sessions.

By sharing the Pathway Framework we can start to build a common language and understanding of what the Pathway sees as important for the progression of young players. This common language will also ensure a clear and effective communication between all parties involved, which is critical for efficient learning and improvement.







The next three pages, summarise the Pathway Framework for all skills across the Foundation Phase, Youth Development Phase and Senior Development Phase.










SKILLS FRAMEWORK

FOUNDATION PHASE: UNDER 10 - UNDER 12







BATTING

-  Is establishing the ability to identify gaps and space and find ways to score runs in different areas
-  Is establishing an awareness of different roles and approaches to batting
-  Is establishing an awareness of positive running between the wickets
-  Is establishing a position at release that allows them to be balanced, aligned and ready to move to different types of delivery against pace and spin
-  Is establishing the ability to identify length and attempt positive movements against pace and spin
-  Is establishing an awareness of contact and how to use hands to add, use and remove pace







PACE BOWLING

-  Is establishing an awareness of why different deliveries (varying in line, length, pace and shape) are effective for taking wickets or reducing runs in certain ways and is learning how their field can support this
-  Is establishing an awareness of different roles and approaches to bowling
-  Is establishing an awareness of an efficient bowling action and working in a straight line towards a target
-  Is establishing the ability to regularly challenge the stumps
-  Is establishing the ability to bowl yorkers
-  Is establishing a grip allowing for lateral movement
-  Demonstrates a desire to bowl fast and take wickets

FIELDING

-  Is establishing an understanding of the requirements of their role whilst fielding in a variety of positions
-  From an effective ready to move position, is establishing the ability to anticipate where the ball could go based on the movements of the batter
-  Is establishing an awareness of the technique required to catch and stop the ball in a variety of locations on the field
-  Is establishing an awareness of how to attack and intercept the ball from a variety of locations on the field
-  Is establishing an awareness of the technique required to throw quickly at a target from a variety of locations on the field
-  Demonstrates a desire to keep the ball in play at all costs

SPIN BOWLING

-  Is establishing an awareness of why different deliveries (varying in line, length, pace and shape) are effective for taking wickets or reducing runs in certain ways and is learning how their field can support this
-  Is establishing an awareness of different roles and approaches to bowling
-  Is establishing an awareness of an efficient bowling action by creating rotational energy when working towards a target
-  Is establishing the ability to regularly challenge the stumps
-  Is establishing a grip allowing for spin
-  Demonstrates a desire to spin the ball hard and take wickets







WICKETKEEPING

-  Is establishing an awareness of how to take different types of catches when standing up and standing back
-  Is establishing an awareness of how posture combined with a positive use of head, hands and feet allows them to manage different deliveries
-  Is establishing an awareness of how to be involved and influence the game
-  Is beginning to show confidence and bravery when stood up to the stumps

SKILLS FRAMEWORK

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE: UNDER 13 - UNDER 15







BATTING

-  Is developing the ability to adapt their role and approach based on the game situation, surface, conditions, and the strengths and weaknesses of their opponent and themselves
-  Is developing the ability to identify and hit gaps and space in different areas to maximise run scoring
-  Is developing the ability to run positively between the wickets
-  Is developing a position at release that allows them to be balanced, aligned and ready to move to different types of delivery against pace and spin
-  Is developing the ability to identify length and effectively play off the front and back foot against the fast moving ball and the spinning ball
-  Is developing the ability to effectively use their hands to add, use and remove pace








PACE BOWLING

-  Is developing the ability to adapt their role and approach based on the game situation, surface, conditions, and the strengths and weaknesses of their opponent and themselves
-  Is developing an awareness and understanding of appropriate fields; how they are influenced by the deliveries they are bowling and how they can influence the batter's approach
-  Is developing their bowling action to increase pace and accuracy
-  Is developing the ability to regularly bowl a length challenging the top of the stumps
-  Is developing the ability to bowl yorkers and bouncers
-  Is developing the ability to generate lateral movement
-  Is developing variations that deceive batters in the air or off the pitch
-  Demonstrates a desire to bowl fast and take wickets





FIELDING

-  Is developing an understanding of the requirements of various fielding positions
-  From an effective ready to move position, is developing the ability to anticipate where the ball could go based on the movements of the batter
-  Is developing the ability to catch and stop the ball in a variety of locations on the field with appropriate technique
-  Is developing the ability to attack and intercept the ball from a variety of locations on the field
-  Is developing the ability to throw quickly and accurately at a target from a variety of locations on the field with appropriate technique
-  Demonstrates a desire to keep the ball in play at all costs

SPIN BOWLING

-  Is developing the ability to adapt their role and approach based on the game situation, surface, conditions, and the strengths and weaknesses of their opponent and themselves
-  Is developing an awareness and understanding of appropriate fields; how they are influenced by the deliveries they are bowling and how they can influence the batter's approach
-  Is developing their bowling action to increase spin and accuracy whilst bowling with intent and energy
-  Is developing the ability to consistently release their stock ball in a way that maximises spin
-  Is developing the ability to regularly bowl a length challenging the top of the stumps
-  Is developing variations that deceive batters in the air and off the pitch
-  Demonstrates a desire to spin the ball hard and take wickets

WICKETKEEPING

-  Is developing the ability to convert wicket taking chances when standing up and standing back
-  Is developing an understanding and consistency of their posture and movements to manage different types of delivery when standing up and standing back
-  Is developing the ability to positively impact the game by providing relevant information to fielders, bowlers and captains
-  Is developing the courage to stand up to the stumps and the ability to identify when this is most appropriate

SKILLS FRAMEWORK

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PHASE: UNDER 16 - UNDER 18







BATTING

-  Demonstrates the ability to adapt their approach and successfully perform different roles, resulting in match influencing performances
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to run positively between the wickets
-  Regularly demonstrates a position at release that allows them to be balanced, aligned and ready to move to different types of delivery against pace and spin
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to identify length and execute appropriate movements, minimising risk and maximising run scoring opportunities against pace and spin
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to effectively use their hands to add, use and remove pace

PACE BOWLING

-  Demonstrates an understanding and adaptability of role by setting appropriate fields to effective deliveries, resulting in match influencing performances
-  Consistently demonstrates a bowling action facilitating pace and accuracy
-  Regularly demonstrates the adaptability to execute an appropriate wicket taking length
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to accurately execute yorkers and bouncers
-  Regularly demonstrates the adaptability to generate lateral movement in different directions
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to execute variations that deceive batters in the air or off the pitch
-  Demonstrates a desire to bowl fast and take wickets

FIELDING

-  Thoroughly understands the requirements of various fielding positions
-  From an effective ready to move position, regularly demonstrates the ability to anticipate where the ball could go based on the movements of the batter
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to catch and stop the ball in a variety of locations on the field with appropriate technique
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to attack and successfully intercept the ball from a variety of locations on the field
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to throw quickly and accurately at a target from a variety of locations on the field with appropriate technique
-  Demonstrates a desire to keep the ball in play at all costs

SPIN BOWLING

-  Demonstrates an understanding and adaptability of role by setting appropriate fields to effective deliveries, resulting in match influencing performances
-  Consistently demonstrates a bowling action facilitating spin and accuracy when bowling with intent and energy
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to release their stock ball in a way that maximises spin
-  Regularly demonstrates the adaptability to execute an appropriate wicket taking length
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to adapt their pace to remain threatening in all conditions
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to deceive batters in the air and off the pitch with their stock ball and variations
-  Demonstrates a desire to spin the ball hard and take wickets

WICKETKEEPING

-  Demonstrates the ability to convert a high percentage of wicket taking chances when standing up and standing back
-  Demonstrates a strong and repeatable posture and appropriate movements to manage different types of delivery when standing up and standing back
-  Demonstrates the ability to positively impact the game by providing relevant information to fielders, bowlers and captains
-  Demonstrates the courage to stand up to the stumps and positively impacts the game by identifying when it is appropriate to do so

SELECTION & TALENT ID

The process of talent identification encompasses numerous different considerations, is multifaceted and ever-evolving.

Recognising that it is impossible to achieve perfection, it should be an ongoing process that adapts, evolves, and improves over time.

This section gives an idea of how we select, what we select on and the process of selection for all players.





FUNDAMENTALS


WHAT FUNDAMENTALS DO WE LOOK FOR AT OBSERVATION DAYS?



BATTING

- Creates a balanced position at ball release
- Identifies length and moves appropriately
- Uses hands effectively to add, remove and use pace

Has an action that shows potential to bowl with pace & accuracy



PACE BOWLING



FIELDING (STAGE TWO ONLY)

- Shows a desire to catch and stop every ball
- Is able to throw with accuracy and intent

Shows potential to bowl with energy and accuracy

Is able to spin the ball off the surface



SPIN BOWLING

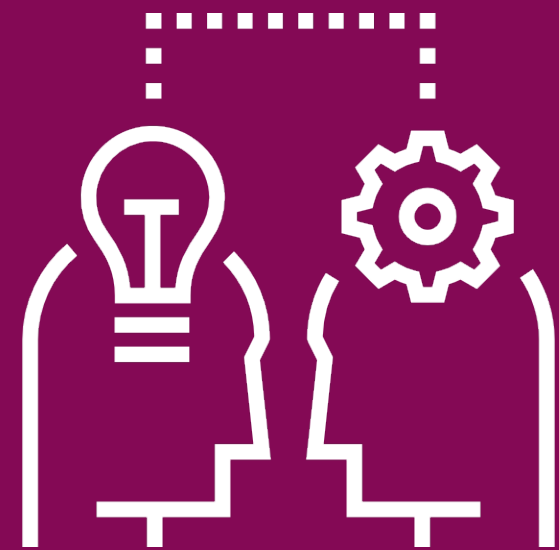


WICKETKEEPING

- Creates a strong position to catch from
- Manages a variety of deliveries

SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

COACH JUDGEMENT



Coach judgment is crucial in talent identification and selection. Coaches rely on their experience, judgement, evidence, opinion and intuition to assess a player's potential and capabilities.

Throughout our observation process full-time members of staff will work alongside Pathway coaches to evaluate players fundamentals against the Pathway Framework. These coaches are able to use a strong awareness of Pathway cricket to observe technical skills, tactical awareness, game understanding, and strategic thinking.

PLAYER POTENTIAL



Player statistics form little to no part of our Pathway selection and instead a players potential will be the key selection factor. The evidence says that until the U18 age group, there is no link between statistics and players long term success at senior/professional level.

This is where a player's ability to demonstrate the skills within the Framework is so important as these are all directly transferable to the high level of cricket that they aspire to play.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

TRAINING HISTORY



Understanding a player's cricket journey and current access to the sport helps us gauge their developmental progress. This information is particularly valuable for newcomers or those with limited exposure to the game.

ATHLETICISM



Assessing a player's athleticism is crucial for their development. We look at their movement abilities and overall physical coordination to determine how well they can perform certain aspects of the game.

MATURATION



In the observation phase, we consider growth and maturation data to ensure fair comparisons among players of similar biological age. This is especially important for players aged U13-U15, as early maturers may have advantages over their later developing peers.

ADAPTABILITY



Players in the Pathway are exposed to higher levels of challenge. Those who demonstrate a higher level of awareness and the ability to learn from and cope with challenges quickly tend to excel. We assess how quickly players adapt, learn, and embrace new ideas.

MONTH OF BIRTH



Considering the month or stage of the year a player is born becomes relevant, especially in the Foundation phase (U9-U12). This factor can significantly impact performance, as players born in the first quarter of the year may have an advantage over their peers.

EXPLORATION



We evaluate how players approach tough situations, challenges, and adversity. Their ability to handle discomfort and push beyond their comfort zones, as well as their willingness to adapt and improve, is key to their development.

OBSERVATION DAYS

WHAT ADDITIONAL THINGS MIGHT YOU SEE AT THE OBSERVATION DAY?

USE OF BIBS



We use bibs within our sessions for a variety of reasons but mainly because it allows us to have an awareness of certain key selection considerations like relative age effect and growth and maturation data without constantly referring to clipboards or electronic devices

CONVERSATIONS



Building rapport with players and beginning to understand relevant aspects of their cricket journey helps us build a greater understanding of the player. Coaches may also look to get a better understanding of how a player may overcome a challenge or problem.

FOOTAGE



Collecting footage throughout sessions allows us to review aspects of the observation day away from the day itself. This is particularly helpful when recording bowlers and overseeing net scenarios

DATA COLLECTION



Getting bowling speeds, and spin rates for spinners, not only provides a unique experience for players but also allows us to build a picture of what good looks like using data.

TRACKING NON-SELECTED PLAYER PERFORMANCES



PLAYER TRACKING

It is in the interests of Somerset Pathway to continue to monitor all non-selected players, as we fully understand that individuals develop at different rates. We are very fortunate to have a comprehensive network of Pathway coaches and key stakeholders who have a strong awareness of the school, youth cricket and senior cricket networks across the region. While this process remains largely informal, it effectively enables us to stay in touch with impressive performances occurring away from traditional Pathway cricket.

In addition, recent advancements in technology have further expanded our reach allowing us to incorporate the viewing of match play within the club and school cricket network to those using video capture services. This, along with a stronger relationship with our local national counties; Devon and Cornwall, provides us with a broader perspective on the performances and potential of players across the region.

To further develop and optimise this process for 2025 we have created a dedicated link for schools and clubs. This link serves as a platform for a wider network of players to provide us with

updates about outstanding player performances, particularly those that align with the core fundamentals we value in potential Somerset Pathway players. While this system may not give further opportunity to every player that is submitted, it will provide us a wider, more accurate context around which players warrant additional information gathering.

TRACKING LINK



Please click the icon above to access the player tracking link



SELECTION TIMELINES FOUNDATION PHASE

Selection numbers are all approximate, based on historical data and/or projections for 2026/2027



UNDER 10 TIMELINES

NOMINATIONS SENT OUT

During April all clubs and schools across Somerset will receive the Somerset Pathway nomination process for the 2026/2027 season

KEY INFORMATION

Please ensure that the relevant parties at your club or school have received the nomination information

APRIL 2026

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED

After reading and understanding the handbook; Coaches, clubs and schools have until 29th May to nominate players for Boys and Girls Pathway observation days

KEY INFORMATION

Important to ensure that players & parents have context of the realities of the observation process

MAY 2026

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Approximately 100 new U10 nominations are received and information checked by the Pathway Operations Manager before being prepared for the next stage of information collecting

MAY 2026

STAGE ONE INVITES SENT

Parents receive the Pathway handbook, stage one dates and a further information request for their child including information that may help our selection process

KEY INFORMATION

Please book onto your stage one observation day as soon as possible to ensure that you get your favoured date

MAY/JUNE 2026

STAGE ONE OBSERVATION DAYS

Players attend our stage one observation days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

JUNE 2026

WINTER SQUAD SELECTIONS

Training day attendees who haven't been selected for the winter programme will receive an email on feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Successful training day attendees will be invited to the Under 10 winter squads for the 2026/2027 winter.

SEPTEMBER 2026

TRAINING DAYS

Players attend our observation training days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices with hard balls across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

JULY/AUG 2026

TRAINING DAY INVITES SENT

Stage One attendees who haven't been invited to the observation training days will receive an email and feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Stage One attendees who have been selected will be invited to attend three free of charge training days which will help grow an understanding of the transition into hard ball cricket and introduce some key Framework points via skills and game based practices

JULY 2026

UNDER 11 TIMELINES

NOMINATIONS SENT OUT

During April all clubs and schools across Somerset will receive the Somerset Pathway nomination process for the 2026/2027 season

KEY INFORMATION

Please ensure that the relevant parties at your club or school have received the nomination information

APRIL 2026

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED

After reading and understanding the handbook; Coaches, clubs and schools have until 29th May to nominate players for Boys and Girls Pathway observation days

KEY INFORMATION

Important to ensure that players & parents have context of the realities of the observation process

MAY 2026

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Approximately 100 new U11 nominations are received and information checked by the Pathway Operations Manager before being prepared for the next stage of information collecting

MAY 2026

STAGE ONE INVITES SENT

Parents receive the Pathway handbook, stage one dates and a further information request for their child including information that may help our selection process

KEY INFORMATION

Please book onto your stage one observation day as soon as possible to ensure that you get your favoured date

MAY/JUNE 2026

STAGE ONE OBSERVATION DAYS

Players attend our stage one observation days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

JUNE 2026

WINTER SQUAD SELECTIONS

Stage two attendees who haven't been selected for the winter programme will receive an email on feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Successful stage two attendees will be invited to the Under 11 winter squads for the 2026/2027 winter.

SEPTEMBER 2026

STAGE TWO OBSERVATION DAYS

Players attend our stage two observation days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

AUGUST 2026

STAGE TWO INVITES SENT

Observation training day attendees who haven't been invited to the stage two observations will receive an email and feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Observation training day attendees who have been selected will be invited to attend a stage two observation.

AUGUST 2026

TRAINING DAYS

Players attend our observation training days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices with hard balls across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

JULY/AUG 2026

TRAINING DAY INVITES SENT

Stage One attendees who haven't been invited to the observation training days will receive an email and feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Stage One attendees who have been selected will be invited to attend three free of charge training days which will help grow an understanding of the transition into hard ball cricket and introduce some key Framework points via skills and game based practices

JULY 2026

UNDER 12 TIMELINES

NOMINATIONS SENT OUT

During April all clubs and schools across Somerset will receive the Somerset Pathway nomination process for the 2026/2027 season

KEY INFORMATION

Please ensure that the relevant parties at your club or school have received the nomination information

APRIL 2026

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED

After reading and understanding the handbook; Coaches, clubs and schools have until 29th May to nominate players for Boys and Girls Pathway observation days

KEY INFORMATION

Important to ensure that players & parents have context of the realities of the observation process

MAY 2026

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Approximately 100 new U12 nominations are received and information checked by the Pathway Operations Manager before being prepared for the next stage of information collecting

MAY 2026

STAGE ONE INVITES SENT

Parents receive the Pathway handbook, stage one dates and a further information request for their child including information that may help our selection process

KEY INFORMATION

Please book onto your stage one observation day as soon as possible to ensure that you get your favoured date

MAY/JUNE 2026

STAGE ONE OBSERVATION DAYS

Players attend our stage one observation days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

JUNE 2026

WINTER SQUAD SELECTIONS

Stage two attendees who haven't been selected for the winter programme will receive an email on feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Successful stage two attendees will be invited to the Under 12 winter squads for the 2026/2027 winter.

SEPTEMBER 2026

STAGE TWO OBSERVATION DAYS

Players attend our stage two observation days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

AUGUST 2026

STAGE TWO INVITES SENT

Observation training day attendees who haven't been invited to the stage two observations will receive an email and feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Observation training day attendees who have been selected will be invited to attend a stage two observation.

AUGUST 2026

TRAINING DAYS

Players attend our observation training days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices with hard balls across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

JULY/AUG 2026

TRAINING DAY INVITES SENT

Stage One attendees who haven't been invited to the observation training days will receive an email and feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Stage One attendees who have been selected will be invited to attend three free of charge training days which will help grow an understanding of the transition into hard ball cricket and introduce some key Framework points via skills and game based practices

JULY 2026

SELECTION TIMELINES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE

Selection numbers are all approximate, based on historical data and/or projections for 2026/2027



UNDER 13 TIMELINES

NOMINATIONS SENT OUT

During April all clubs and schools across Somerset will receive the Somerset Pathway nomination process for the 2026/2027 season

KEY INFORMATION

Please ensure that the relevant parties at your club or school have received the nomination information

APRIL 2026

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED

After reading and understanding the handbook; Coaches, clubs and schools have until 29th May to nominate players for Boys and Girls Pathway observation days

KEY INFORMATION

Important to ensure that players & parents have context of the realities of the observation process

MAY 2026

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Approximately 100 new U13 nominations are received and information checked by the Pathway Operations Manager before being prepared for the next stage of information collecting

MAY 2026

STAGE ONE INVITES SENT

Parents receive the Pathway handbook, stage one dates and a further information request for their child including information that may help our selection process

KEY INFORMATION

Please book onto your stage one observation day as soon as possible to ensure that you get your favoured date

MAY/JUNE 2026

STAGE ONE OBSERVATION DAYS

Players attend our stage one observation days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

JUNE/JULY 2026

WINTER SQUAD SELECTIONS

Stage two attendees who haven't been selected for the winter programme will receive an email on feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Successful stage two attendees will be invited to the Under 13 winter squads for the 2026/2027 winter.

SEPTEMBER 2026

STAGE TWO OBSERVATION DAYS

Players attend our stage two observation days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

AUGUST 2026

STAGE TWO INVITES SENT

Observation training day attendees who haven't been invited to the stage two observations will receive an email and feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Observation training day attendees who have been selected will be invited to attend a stage two observation.

AUGUST 2026

TRAINING DAYS

Players attend our observation training days where they will be involved in a mixture of skills practices with hard balls across batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping in addition to game based bat vs ball sessions

KEY INFORMATION

Promote the excitement of attending a skills session, ensure that expectations are managed

JULY/AUG 2026

TRAINING DAY INVITES SENT

Stage One attendees who haven't been invited to the observation training days will receive an email and feedback on areas of the Framework that they could continue to develop.

Stage One attendees who have been selected will be invited to attend three free of charge training days which will help grow an understanding of the transition into hard ball cricket and introduce some key Framework points via skills and game based practices

JULY 2026

UNDER 14 TIMELINES

NOMINATIONS SENT OUT

During April all clubs and schools across Somerset will receive the Somerset Pathway nomination process for the 2026/2027 season

KEY INFORMATION

Please ensure that the relevant parties at your club or school have received the nomination information

APRIL 2026

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED

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KEY INFORMATION

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MAY 2026

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

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MAY 2026

STAGE ONE INVITES SENT

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JULY/AUG 2026

TRAINING DAY INVITES SENT

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JULY 2026

UNDER 15 TIMELINES

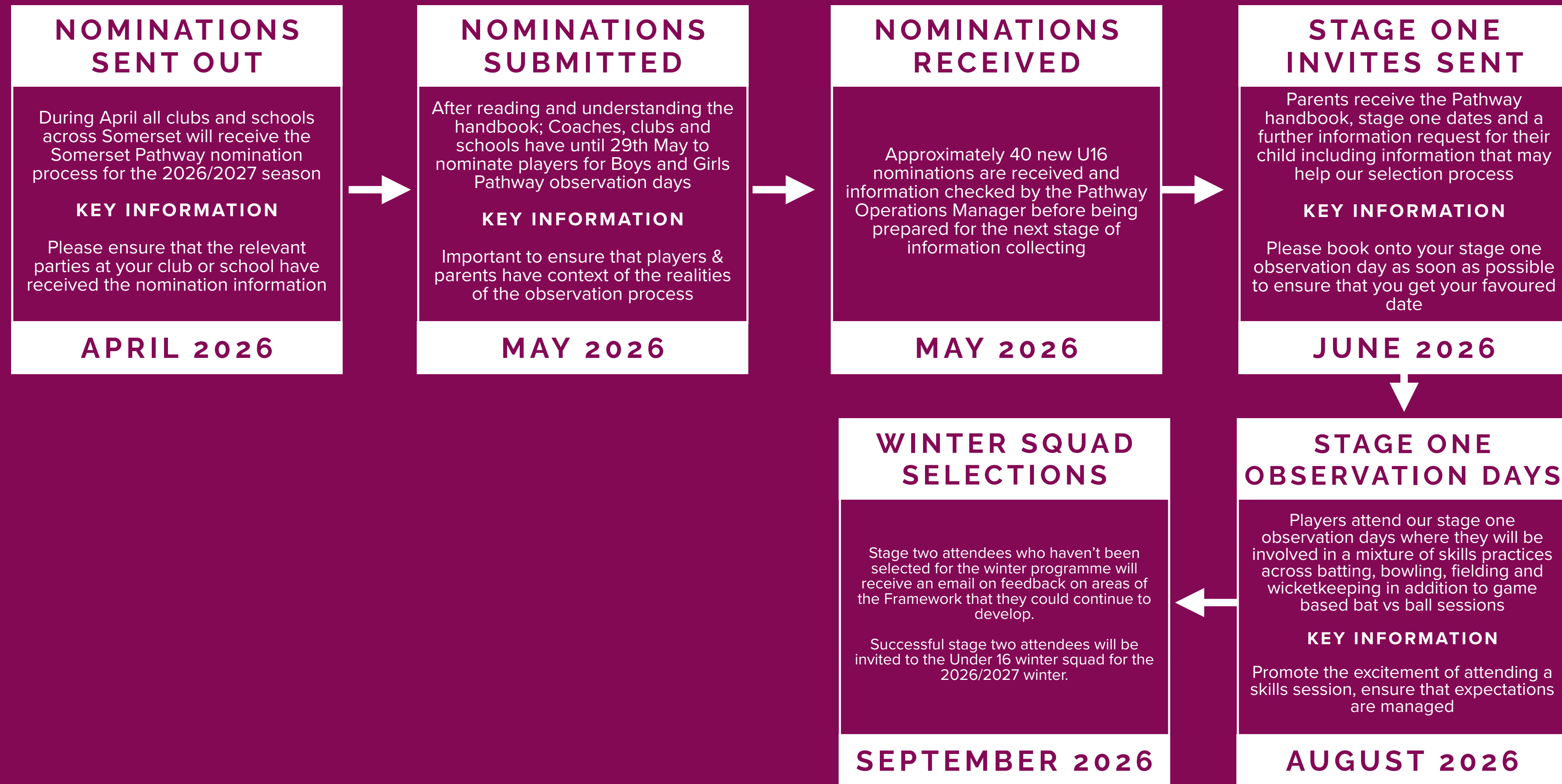


SELECTION TIMELINES SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PHASE

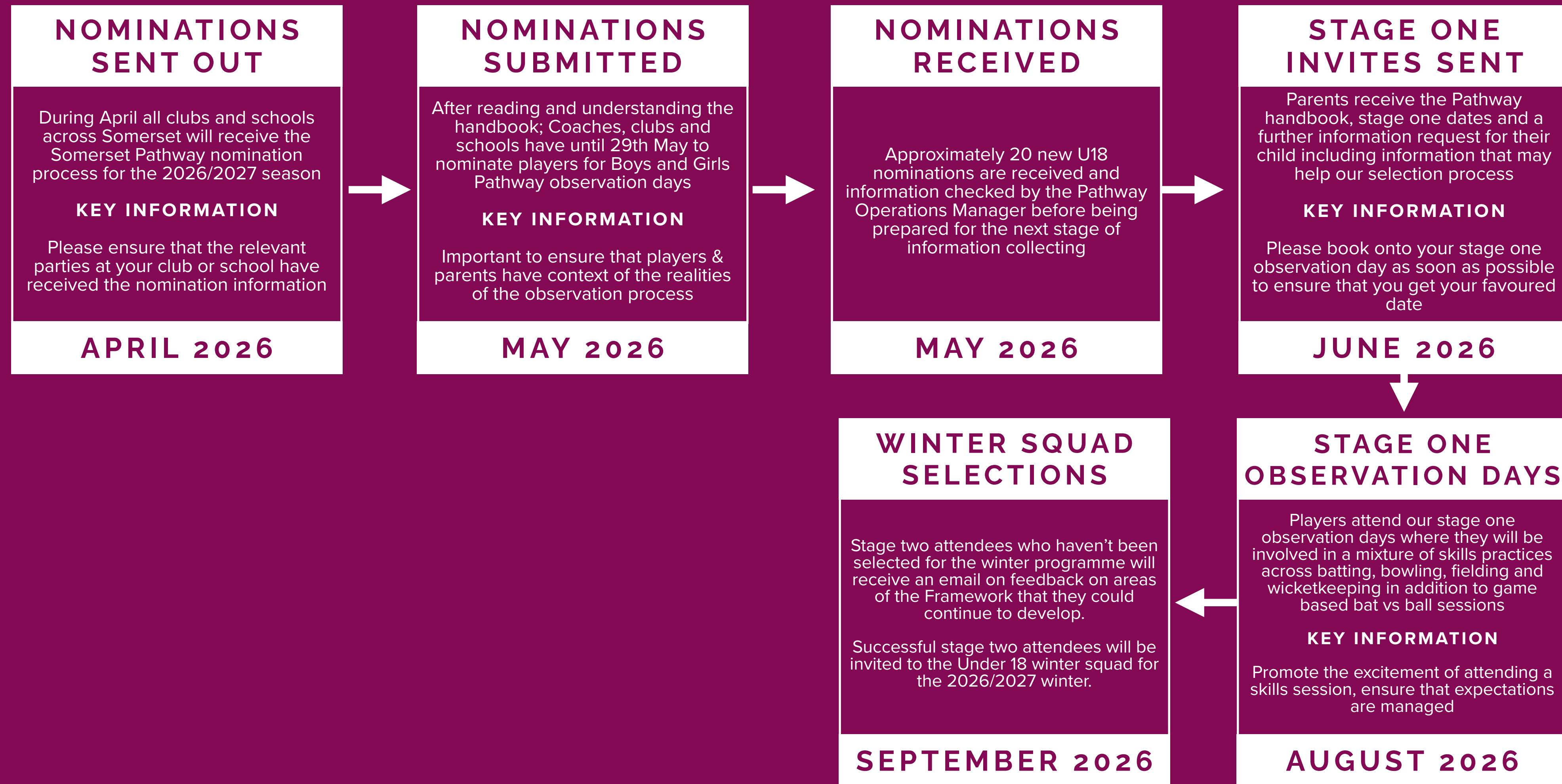
Selection numbers are all approximate, based on historical data and/or projections for 2025/2027



UNDER 16 TIMELINES



UNDER 18 TIMELINES



**ARE YOU WORRIED
OR CONCERNED
ABOUT ANYTHING?**

**TELL
SOMEONE**



● **PARENTS**

● **COACH**

● **SCCC STAFF**

● **SOMEONE ELSE THAT YOU
CAN TRUST**

If you think you are in immediate danger call: **Police 999**

You can also call:

Child line **0800 1111**

SCCC Safeguarding Lead, Jane Law:

07394 803026

ECB Safeguarding Team:

02074 321 200



SOMERSET PLAYER PATHWAY BOYS PATHWAY HANDBOOK

2025/2026

