



# LOWER PLENTY CRICKET CLUB

## Junior Player Development Pathway

It is the Club's Mission to foster and promote the participation of cricket by developing skills and providing opportunities for players to fulfil their potential, whilst building friendships and lifelong bonds.

From the beginning of our players journey at LPCC, our aim is to provide a pathway that is designed for players of all abilities and skill levels to reach their desired outcomes.

The pathway begins with;

1. Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria Pop Up schools' program
2. LPCC Junior Blasters program
3. LPCC Junior Cricket program
4. DVCA Junior Representative Cricket for ages under 12 to under 18
5. LPCC Introduction to Senior Cricket – Saturday senior cricket in the club's 5<sup>th</sup> team.
6. Senior's cricket – the club has 5 senior sides
7. Transition into Sub-District or District Cricket
8. Back to the club to play with mates
9. Finally finish your career in our over 40 Vets side
10. Take up coaching or an active role in supporting the club

Today in the club, we have many people who completed all of the above and now have over 40 years of friendship and lifelong memories.

## The Pathway

### Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria Pop Up schools' program

The CA/CV Schools Cricket Program is a program run by primary schools with the support of LPCC coaches & players, to offer a program suited to after-school needs. It is based around fun with inclusive programs that are highly engaging practical cricket activities that focus on further developing the Physical Literacy skills of all students.

This is open to all primary school aged children.

Local School – St Thomas Apollo Parkways

## Life at the Lower Plenty CC

### LPCC Blasters Programs

The LPCC journey begins at Woolworths Cricket Blast level, with girls and boys taught the fundamentals of the game developed by Cricket Australia.

Split into two levels – **Junior Blasters** (age 5-7 years) unites children through fun and exciting game-based activities. Whilst the **Master Blasters** (age 7-10 years), are made ready to be a part of team by playing short games of cricket in a fun and social setting. These programs are run on a Sunday morning.

- Junior Blasters
  - Sessions run for 60 minutes
  - Learn new skills including catching, throwing and teamwork
  - Make new friends or organise a group to learn together
  - Wear the colours of your favourite Big Bash heroes in a personalised t-shirt
  - All equipment supplied – parents can even join in the fun!

- Master Blasters
  - Sessions run for 90 minutes
  - Designed for kids with basic cricket skills
  - Everyone gets the chance to bat, bowl and field
  - Wear the colours of your favourite Big Bash heroes with your choice of coloured playing cap
  - Make new friends or organise a group to play together
  - All equipment supplied – parents can even join in the fun!

### **LPCC Junior Program**

From the Blasters program, we offer mixed gender teams at age groups ranging from U10 through to U18.

The key to our junior program is Fair Play. This program is designed to develop our cricketers of the future.

- U10 Grade Competition
  - All games are 1-dayers. Scores are recorded but no competition points are awarded. Fun and learning the game is key.
- u12 & u14 Grade Competitions
  - Coaches will generally attempt give equal opportunities over the course of the year for all the players in the team to experience different batting and bowling positions. This level is about developing their game and playing with friends.
- u16 & u18 Grade Competitions
  - These grades are about preparing for senior cricket where players may be batted and bowled in positions that suit a more traditional cricket game.

### Girls

Currently we are looking to introduce girls only teams. In these, they usually play in grades 1 or 2 years below their actual age, depending on the competition rules. This allows for players to play at their ability level to assist in their confidence and development. That said, we encourage any girl who wishes to play in a mixed-gender team to give it a go.

### Junior to Seniors transition

At LPCC we encourage junior cricketers from under 14's and above, to participate in our senior Saturday One-day Competition. This generally begins in our 5ths team where it is a mix of senior and junior players. A great way to start is as a father/son.

### **LPCC Junior Development Program**

Currently the club is setting up a junior development program;

- To develop our young cricketers to achieve their full potential
- To create an environment where young cricketers are confident, committed and capable to play senior cricket
- To create a supportive and nurturing culture for our young cricketers within the club
- To retain young cricketers in the club as they progress through the grades
- To create a 'team within a team' of younger players that can thrive in a positive environment
- To develop future leaders of the club

This program will focus the skill improvement of all levels of ability in a more one-on-one environment. This will include specialist coaching (from both internal or external) in areas like;

- Traditional areas – Batting, bowling & fielding
- Specific areas – Swing bowling, spin bowling & keeping
- Skill areas – Throwing, running between wickets, hitting into gaps
- Leadership areas – Tactics & captaincy

## **LPCC Seniors Program**

LPCC's senior cricket program comprises of five senior teams competing in the Diamond Valley Cricket Association (DVCA) competition. All senior teams play on synthetic wickets, with the club boasting some of the best facilities in the area.

The club values the development of its players by providing a program for its emerging senior players and access to qualified coaches at all training sessions.

The club is a proud community club welcoming players and their families from all walks of life. Whilst the club always strives for on-field success, it prioritises its strong club culture above all else.

Our strong culture is evidenced by the historically large number of junior cricketers who transition to senior cricket, many as father/son or by those that wind down their cricket careers playing in our over 40 Vets team.

As our best cricketers develop, the club fully supports their transition into the next level(s) as we know they will return to play out their remaining days with their friends and ex-teammates.

## **Next Levels**

### **Sub-District Cricket**

The Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association (VSDCA) is a turf cricket competition based in Melbourne. There are 32 clubs that each field four teams (one per grade) plus an under 15 team in the annual J.G Craig Shield competition. This is regarded as the premier competition for the future of Victorian cricket.

There are four divisions (North, South, East, West). In first and second grade these divisions rotate annually to ensure every club plays each other at least once every three years. In third and fourth division these do not change and the two 'leagues' are South-East and North-West

All clubs run junior programs. Many also have other open age teams in local competitions along with women's teams.

Local clubs are – Preston CC, Plenty Valley CC, Ivanhoe CC

### **Premier Cricket**

Victorian Premier Cricket is a club cricket competition in the state of Victoria administered by Cricket Victoria. Each club fields four teams (firsts through to fourths) of adult players. Matches are played on turf wickets under limited-time rules, with most results being decided on a first-innings basis.

Outstanding players in the competition are selected to play for the Victorian Bushrangers at first-class level in the Sheffield Shield and Marsh One Day Cup competitions respectively.

Local clubs are – Fitzroy-Doncaster CC, Northcote CC

### **Shield Cricket**

The Sheffield Shield (currently known for sponsorship reasons as the Marsh Sheffield Shield) is the domestic first-class cricket competition of Australia. The tournament is contested between teams from the six states of Australia. This is the gateway to the National Test side.

Local club - the Victorian Bushrangers

### **Test Cricket**

Test cricket is played at international level between teams representing full member countries of the International Cricket Council (ICC). A match consists of four innings (two per team) and is scheduled to last for up to five days.

There are now twelve full ICC member countries playing Test cricket.

There is no greater honour in cricket, than to be presented with a "baggy green cap".

We hope one day to have a LPCC player wear one.

## Representative Cricket

Representative cricket offers players an opportunity to play at a high standard and get higher level coaching in a more competitive environment and it is available at many levels along the cricketer's journey.

The below focuses on junior rep sides for boys. There are also many pathways for girls, but not listed here.

### **Diamond Valley Cricket Association (DVCA) Rep Cricket**

The DVCA does have a layered process to select for representative cricket. The focus is on inclusion, rather than exclusion. However, numbers do need to be limited at a point and club nominations do not automatically mean entry into the representative program. Each year, each club is asked for 3 nominations, these close early April for the season ahead.

Juniors are nominated through the following process:

- Statistics on club performances (senior and junior)
- Club Nominations
- Previous representative selection and performance
- Early current season performances

Players are then invited to join an initial squad that trains and has match simulations that then form the basis the basis of the competition squads. These then go on and represent the DVCA in the Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union's (VMCU) annual carnival in January of each year.

### **Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union (VMCU)**

The VMCU Junior Representative Carnival is an annual event, which sees the top talent from around the state converge to compete against each other in a tournament format competition.

The VMCU Carnival is a core component of a player's individual pathway, and is considered a pivotal stepping stone to the latter stages of the high-performance journey. These can be either the Youth Premier League (YPL) for under 16's or the Dowling Shield for under 17's.

The tournament then has a final series between the four teams at the end of the Home and Away Rounds.

The competition ages are

- Under 12
  - Keith Michell Shield (synthetic)
  - Josh Browne Plate (synthetic)
- Under 14
  - Russell Allen Shield (turf)
  - Des Nolan Cup (synthetic)
- Under 16
  - Jim Beitzel Shield (Turf)
  - Keith Mackay Cup (Turf)
- Under 18
  - Phil Arnold Shield (Turf)

*All players must meet the age eligibility as at 1st of September in the current season*

### **State-wide Youth Premier League (YPL) - Under 16**

This competition is based on the existing region structure and is delivered by Cricket Victoria. The CV Coaching and Talent Specialists oversee this program. This is where the most talented players will showcase their skill sets in a state-wide tournament.

This will also assist Cricket Victoria with selection of players into CV Emerging Player Programs.

Local Club - Northern Falcons

### **Underage Premier Cricket competition – Under 17 – Dowling Shield**

The final phase (or “finishing school”) for the premier competition for all aspiring and talented junior players. Premier Cricket is the pinnacle club competition and players need to be playing this competition at a senior level to be selected for any senior Victorian team.

The underage competition gives players the flexibility to play at a premier club without having to commit for the whole season, this is especially important for regional players who are unable to travel long distances consistently, and players who are undertaking VCE or an apprenticeship.

### **Cricket Victoria’s Emerging Players Program – Junior Boys**

The CV Emerging Players Program (formerly known as the CV Academy) is a program for selected players within the youth space. For males the age groups are U17 and U19.

Whilst the squads formulate the teams to represent Victoria at the National Championships, this program absolutely provides a holistic approach for players to develop their own game. Squads are selected via an in-depth process that includes (but not limited to);

- Performances at YPL & Premier Cricket,
- Coaching and Talent Specialist recommendations,
- State Talent Manager recommendations,
- Player impact ratings from coaches/umpires and
- Series performance ratings.

### **Cricket Victoria’s Pathway**

The new performance-based player pathway model aims to streamline the opportunities for players that highlights ‘cricket working together’. There are now three distinct phases;

A cricketer’s pathway to Cricket Victoria’s Emerging Players Program will transition through three phases:

‘Be Exposed’, ‘Be Challenged’, ‘Be Prepared’.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rz\\_G7OyUiAA&t=37s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rz_G7OyUiAA&t=37s)