



National Conference for Heads of Cricket in Schools

Monday 17 March
at Pelhams, Lord's Cricket Ground

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**National Boys U18 T20, National Girls 100-ball and Other Competitions
Play Cricket, Wisden School Report, Schools' Survey Results**

Rob Morris
Administrator, Schools Cricket Committee

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Schools Cricket Committee

The Schools Cricket Committee provides hardball competitions for state and independent schools at U17 and U18.

[Find out more](#)



Comprehensive & free coverage of schools cricket

Home



John Barclay presenting Harry Brook (Sedbergh) with the National Schools T20 Trophy at Arundel in 2017

See **Latest results** for news



Welcome to the website which was established in April 2009. This is the ONLY place where you can find comprehensive (and free) coverage of schools cricket, with a huge set of weekly results plus a review of the game

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schoolscricketonline.co.uk

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National Boys Under 18 T20



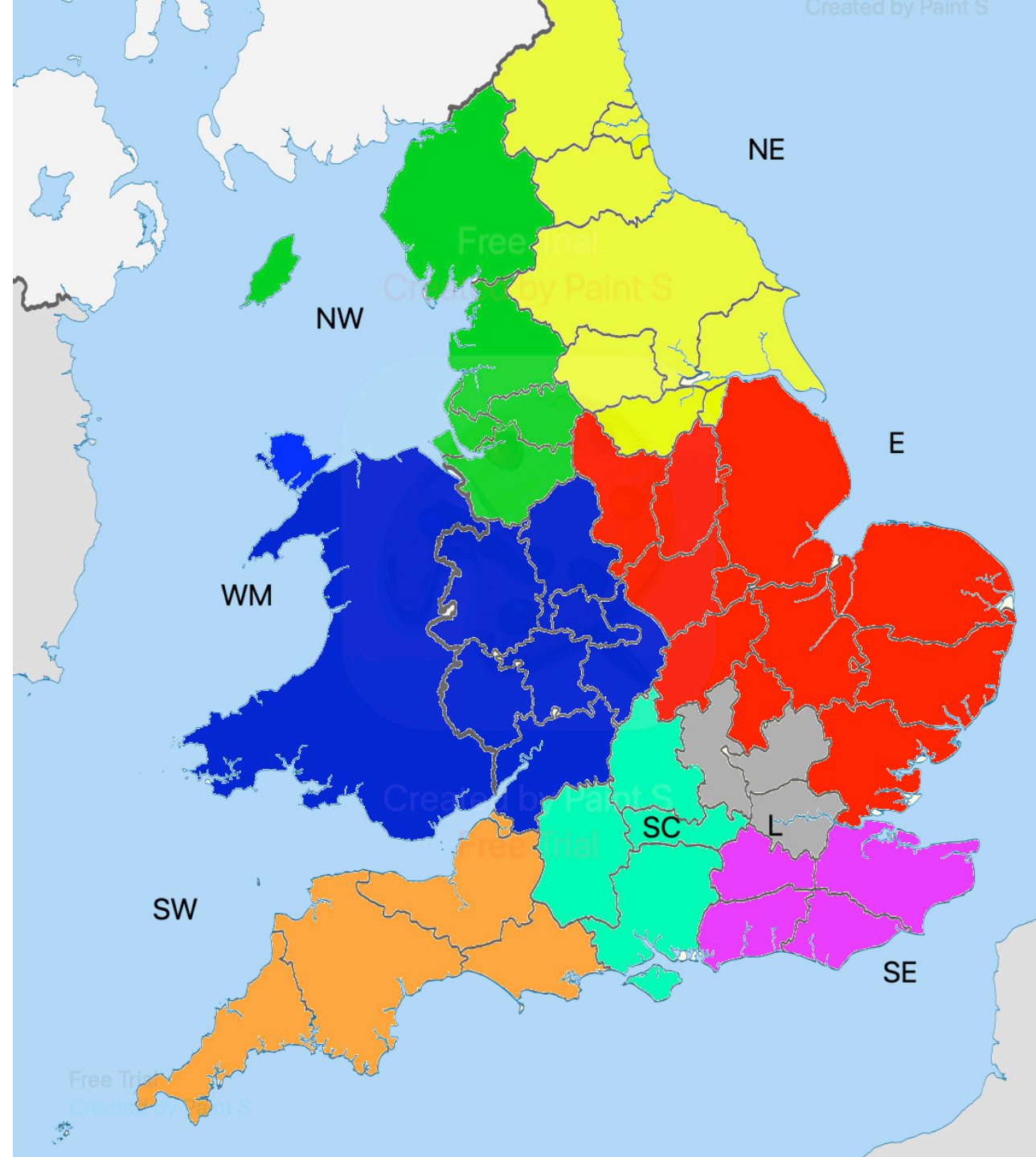
National Boys U18 T20 2025

- 221 Entries
- 159 HMC Schools, 3 non-HMC independent schools
- 59 State Schools or Colleges (27%)
- Lord's Final – 1st July

National Boys U18 T20 2025

Regional Semi-Final	Regional Final	National Quarter Final	National Semi-Final			
By 9th June	By 12th June	By 19th June	By 26th June		1st July	
North London (21)	}	}	}	}	}	
South London (17)						London (38)
	South East (25)					
	South Central (20)					
	South West (29)	SW Playoff				
	West Midlands and Wales (31)	}	}			
	East Midlands and East Anglia (31)					Midlands Play off
	North West (24)					
	Yorkshire and North East (23)	North Play off				

T20 Regions



How the Seedings work

The regional seedings are based on performance over the last five competitions (back to 2019 as there was no competition in 2020).

Points are awarded as such:

- Area Semi-finalist or equivalent – 1 point
- Area finalist or equivalent – 2 points
- Area winner – 3 points
- Regional winner/National semi-finalist – 4 points
- National runner-up - 5 points
- National winner - 6 points

- Totals for the 5 previous tournaments are added up to give a raw score.
- This is then divided by 30 – the maximum number a school could feasibly get to obtain a co-efficient of between 0 and 1.
- Regional seeds are often granted byes through early rounds of competitions, though some regions are different.

Seedings for 2025

Yorks and North East

1	St. Peter's	0.53
2	Scarborough	0.10
3	Durham	0.07
4	RGS Newcastle	0.03

North West

1	Sedbergh	0.47
2	Myerscough (MCR)	0.40
3	MGS	0.23
4	LRGS	0.13

London

1	MTS Northwood	0.43
2	Whitgift	0.40
3	Haileybury	0.13
4	Berkhamsted	0.10

South East

1	Tonbridge	0.40
2	Hurst	0.13
3	Bede's	0.10
4	Cranleigh	0.10

East and East Anglia

1	Gresham's	0.23
2	Felsted	0.13
3	Repton	0.13
4	Bedford	0.10

West Midlands and Wales

1	Malvern	0.80
2	Shrewsbury	0.30
3	Kings W	0.13
4	Bromsgrove	0.17

South Central

1	Wellington	0.23
2	Bradfield	0.20
3	Winchester	0.20
4	St Edwards	0.17

South West

1	King's Taunton	0.63
2	Millfield	0.40
3	Clifton	0.27
4	Taunton	0.10

National Girls Under 18 100- ball



- 69 entrants
- 6 State Schools and Colleges (9%)
- 4 Single-sex Girl's schools
- Lord's final 1st July

National Girls Under 18 100 Ball Draw

Quarter Final
by 16th June

North 10

West Midlands 9

Midlandsd 8

South West 10

London Fringe 8

East 9

London 8

South East 9

Semi-Final
by 23rd June

Winner 1

Winner 2

Winner 3

Winner 4

Final
1st July

Finalist 1

Finaslist 2



National Boys
Under 17
(35 overs)

- 109 entrants
- 19 State Schools and Colleges(17%)
- Final at Loughborough –early
September

National Boys Under 17 Draw

Quarter Final by 20th June		Semi-Final by 27th June	Final Sept
North East 17			
	}	Winner 1	
North West 11			
			} Finalist 1
Midlandsd E & C 15			
	}	Winner 2	
East 12			
London Fringe 12			
	}	Winner 3	
South West 17			
			} Finaslist 2
London 13			
	}	Winner 4	
South East 12			

Regulations

- Play by dates
- Reporting results
- Ineligible players
- Run Rates
- Balls
- Umpires
- Scoring/Play Cricket
- Reporting bad behaviour



Other competitions



Competition	Age Group	Format	Entrants	% State School	% Single Sex
<i>Girls</i>					
Schools Sports	Under 18	T20	70	3	20
Smile Group Travel	Under 17	T20	22	4	9
Schools Sports	Under 15	T20	109	8	28
The Cricket Paper	Under 15	100-ball	84	6	10
Schools Sports	Under 13	T20	85	9	31
<i>Boys</i>					
ESCA David English	Under 13	T20	35	14	
ESCA One day	Under 15	40 over	41	17	
ESCA T20 Inspiresport	Under 16	T20	c.500	65	

ESCA Inspiresport Under 15 T20

	County	Entrants	% State School	
	Yorkshire	65	83	
	Lancashire	56	77	
	Kent	41	73	
	Surrey	29	21	
	Suffolk	6	0	
	Wiltshire	7	43	
	London	8	25	
	Dorset	9	67	

A close-up photograph of a red cricket ball with white stitching, resting on a patch of green grass. The ball is positioned on the left side of the frame, and the text "Play Cricket" is overlaid on its right side. The background is a blurred green field with a wooden edge visible in the upper right corner.

Play Cricket

Play Cricket

- Integration with scoring apps like Play Cricket Scorer
- Used as method for collecting results for cup competitions
- Use for calculating averages
- Injury reports for ECB
- Allows individuals to see their records
- Allows counties to check on players

Wisden

EDITED BY LAWRENCE BOOTH



WISDEN

CRICKETERS' ALMANACK

2025



SCHOOLS CRICKET IN 2024

REVIEW BY ROBERT MORRIS

For many schools, the 2024 season will be remembered for the rain that blighted its beginning and end. The Met Office announced that the meteorological spring – March, April and May – was the sixth-wettest since records began in 1884, and the wettest since 1986. Rainfall for the UK was almost a third higher than the 1991–2020 average, though there were huge variations. Areas such as Edinburgh and Dorset received twice the expected rainfall, while other areas experienced totals perhaps only 10% or so above the norm, notably in the South East.

Inevitably, the number of abandoned games increased. The 2024 figure of 14% – or one game in seven – was up from roughly 9% the year before. The worst-affected areas were the Midlands, the North and Scotland. Sedbergh, in the north-western (Cumbrian) corner of the Yorkshire Dales, had ten abandonments. So too, and less predictably, did Haberdashers' Boys' School, near Borehamwood in Hertfordshire. There are of course other factors at play: while exams are more foreseeable than the British weather, they forced some schools to call off fixtures at relatively short notice.

2025 Schools Wisden Report - for inclusion in the 2026 Wisden Cricketer's Almanack

Please send this spreadsheet to wisden@schoolscricketonline.co.uk by Friday 15th August at the latest. Submissions after this date cannot be guaranteed inclusion in the 2026 Wisden.

2025 season. FILL IN YELLOW BOXES ONLY following the guidelines in red. DO NOT TYPE IN THE GREY BOXES. Once complete, save the file with your school name and 2025 in the title.

School Name -Exactly as the school is known. Don't worry if you run out of space. It's there.			Don't touch! It will automatically calculate		Include everything - including T20 etc - except overseas tours out of the normal season. It should be for your 1st XI only. Do not include Under 17 cup games.										
Greyfriars School			P	10	Won	0	Lost	10	Tied		Drawn		Abandoned	1	that started but did not finish
Boys	X		Girls		Please mark with x as appropriate							Draws: for declaration games only	Cancelled	3	Matches that were called off before the scheduled start

Name of Teacher i/c Cricket	J. E. Smith	Name of Coach/Professional	E. A. Jones
Please use initials of forenames and surname e.g. P. B. H. May, noting the space after the full stop to fit with Wisden's editorail style. Please restrict this to one person.		Please use initials of forenames and surname e.g. P. B. H. May, noting the space after the full stop to fit with Wisden's editorail style. Please restrict this to one person.	

Report for 2025 Season

Once again, the 1st XI struggled to come to terms with the strnegth of the opposition. Heavy defeats by the MCC and XL Club were countered by narrow losses to the county Under 13 side and the Prep School. Arthur Green captained the side with good humour and was also the leading run scorer and wicket taker. A pre-season tour to the Isle of Sheppey awaits next year's squad.

Star typing in the box. Please keep this to about 80 words maximum if possible. Reports will be edited if they go over this. Please wrrite in the third person and use both forename and surname of any players mentioned to meet the Wisden editorial style. Do not quote statistics as these will feature in the averages below.

Rating Averages

Bowling Averages

Full initials with a space after each full stop. *Captain					Best Bowling	Don't touch	School Year i.e Year 12
Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets		Average	
*A. B. Green	90.1	3	496	16	5/97	31.00	13
P. Z. Brown	47.4	1	295	11	3/11	26.82	13
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Play Cricket Link

Wisden – Things to remember

Send it in asap after the end of the season

Statistics

- Separate forms for Boys and Girls
- Full initials
- Spacing of initials
- Don't touch the grey boxes
- Please enter year groups
- Ensure highest score and best bowling are added
- * for the captain but only needs to be used once

Report

- 90-word limit
- Write in third person and in the past tense
- Write for the audience – it won't be read until the following April
- First and last names for any players mentioned
- Don't quote statistics in the report - they will be removed
- Save the file as *Wisden2026your_school* and send to wisden@schoolscricketonline.co.uk

Greyfriars School *Greynshire*

J. E. Smith

P 10 W 0 L 10 A1 C3

Coach : E. A. Jones

Once again, the 1st XI struggled to come to terms with the strength of the opposition. Heavy defeats by the MCC and XL Club were countered by narrow losses to the county Under 13 side and the Prep School. Arthur Green captained the side with good humour and was also the leading run scorer and wicket taker. A pre-season tour to the Isle of Sheppey awaits next year's squad.

Batting: *A. B. Green 256 at 25.60, E.H. Black 157 at 19.63, J.T.E. White 156 at 15.60

Bowling: A. B. Green 16 at 31.00, P. Z. Brown 11 at 26.82

Wisden 2025

- 159 Schools submitted boy's reports and averages in 2024 – down by 15 on previous year and around 40 from pre-Pandemic levels.
- 44 schools submitted girls reports and averages as opposed to 23 in 2023, including 2 all-girls schools for the first time making a total of 204 reports.
- Overall number of boys 1st XI games played in 2024 down by around 10% - weather and exams largely to blame. Average 15 games per school – Highest 27, lowest 7.
- Around 1150 games reported played by boy's 1st XIs in 2024 as opposed to just under 1300 in 2023.
- Schools now playing as many games now as pre-Covid levels.

Batting

- Four batters scored over 1000 runs (3 in 2023), while 81 scored over 500 runs (95 in 2023).
- 758 batters qualified for Wisden (150+ runs) – *2023 817 batters*
- 209 centuries scored – 4 boys scored 4 each (*229 centuries in 2023*)

Best Batting

- Xavier Cox of St. Peter's, Cambridge, NZ scored 331 from 181 balls in 241 minutes against Forest School
- Ralph Hayward (Oundle) 269* (156 balls, 189 minutes) v Wellingborough

Bowling

- Only one bowler took more than 50 wickets – first time since 2018.
- 599 bowlers qualified for Wisden (10 or more wickets)
– *2023 670 bowlers*

Best Bowling

- Nayaab Sharma (Hampton) 8-27 v RGS Guildford
- 2 boys took 8 wicket hauls while 4 took 7 wickets in an innings.

Photos

- Wisden will publish around 10 photos in the Schools section
- High Resolution only
- Head and shoulders – preferably in whites, no hat or sunglasses
- Ideally taken outside with nothing in the immediate background
- If taken indoors, avoid shadows and with plain background
- Action shots – taken in game situation rather than practice and ideally wearing white
- Bowling shots better than batting
- No team photos











Wisden Schools Cricketer of the Year



The background of the slide features a blurred image of a desk setup. On the left, a spiral-bound notebook with a light-colored cover is open, with two silver pens resting on its pages. To the right of the notebook, a line graph is visible, showing three data series in blue, orange, and grey. The graph has a vertical axis with numerical values (0, 40, 80, 100, 120) and a horizontal axis with labels for months (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec). The text of the slide is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular box on the right side.

Schools Cricket Committee Survey - Independent Schools

January 2025

The purpose of this survey is to collect information about the state of cricket being played in schools and to assess the likely impacts of changes in government legislation on the game.

Initial results

School Respondents



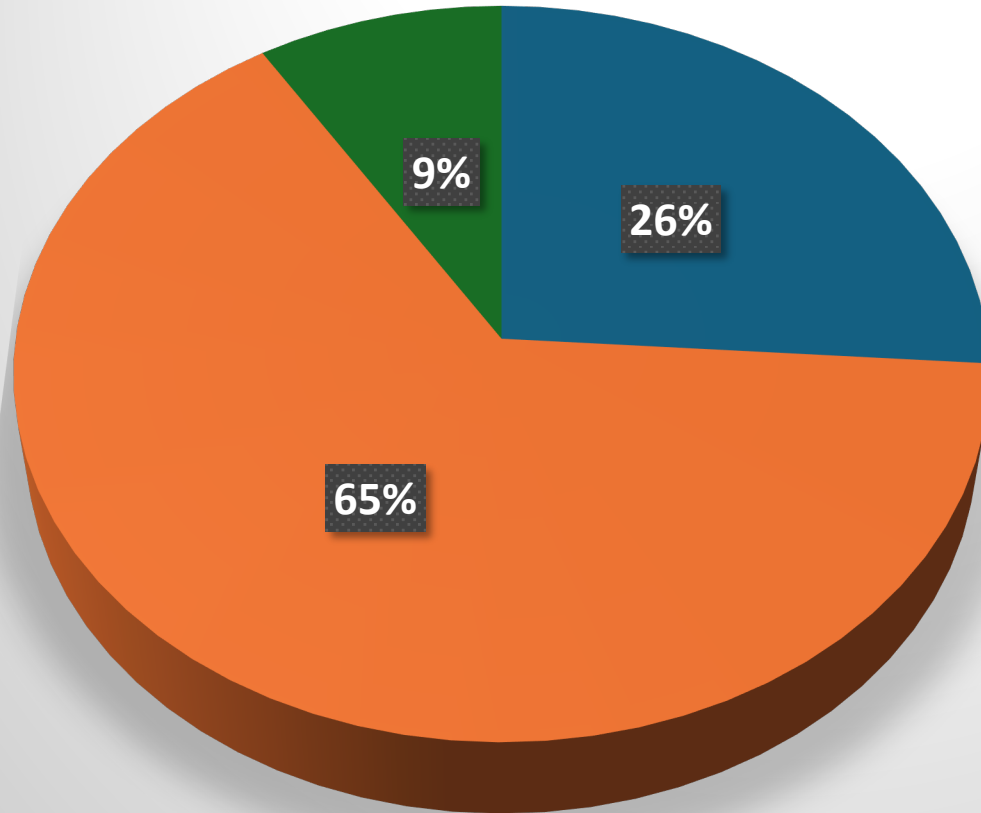


Girl's Schools

State Schools

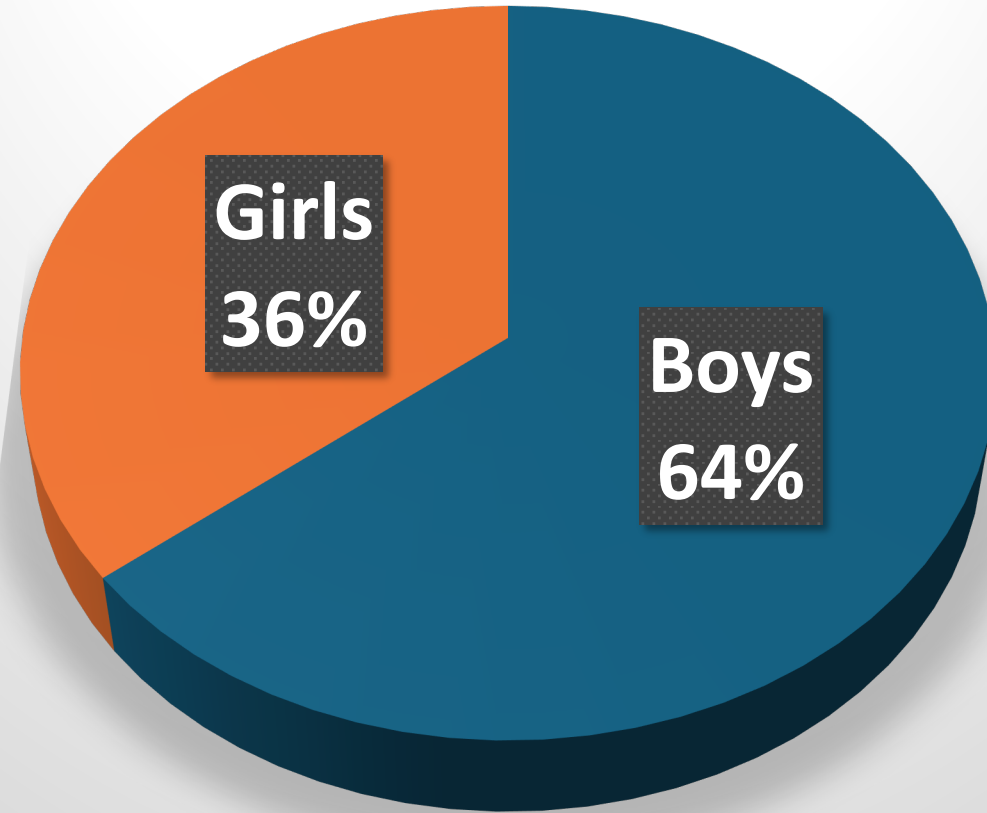


Schools by type



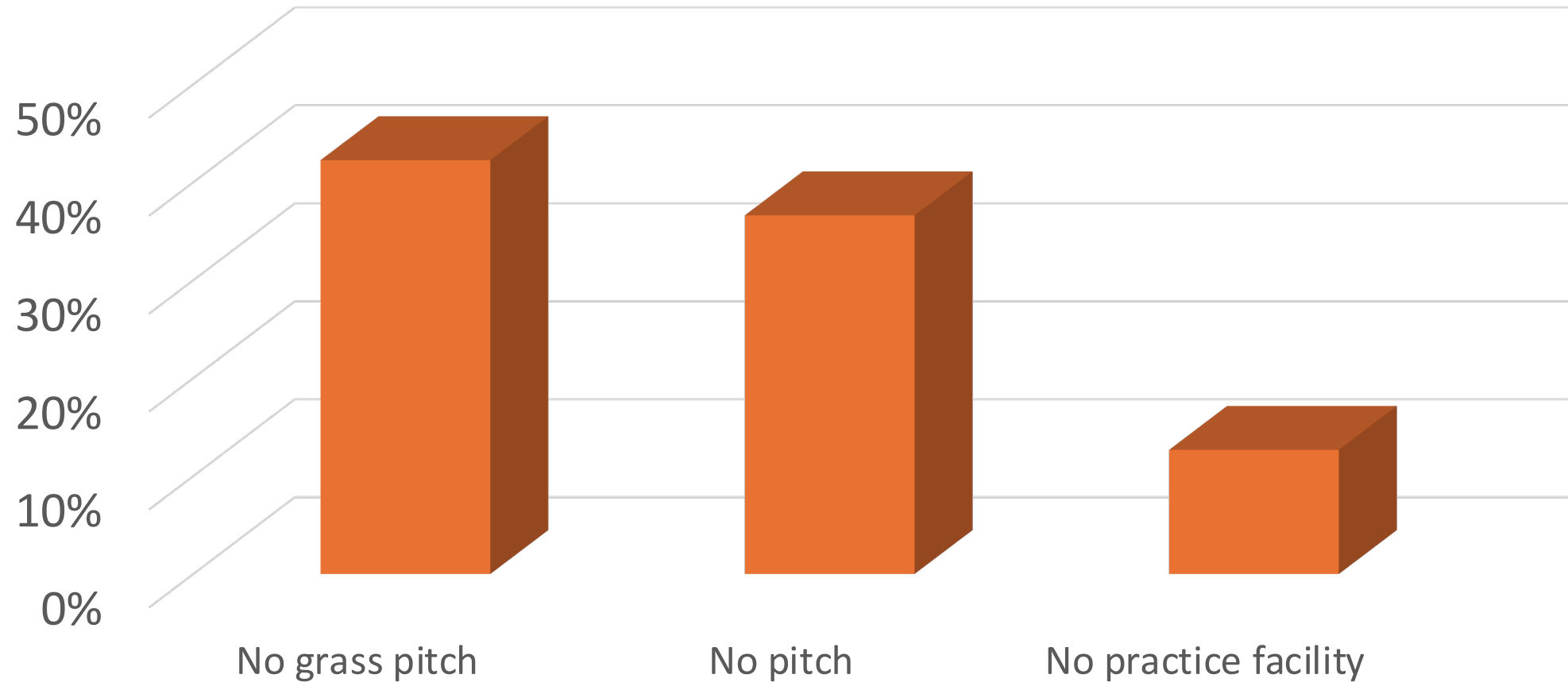
- State
- Independent - HMC
- Independent - Non HMC

Numbers playing 2024 (281 Schools)

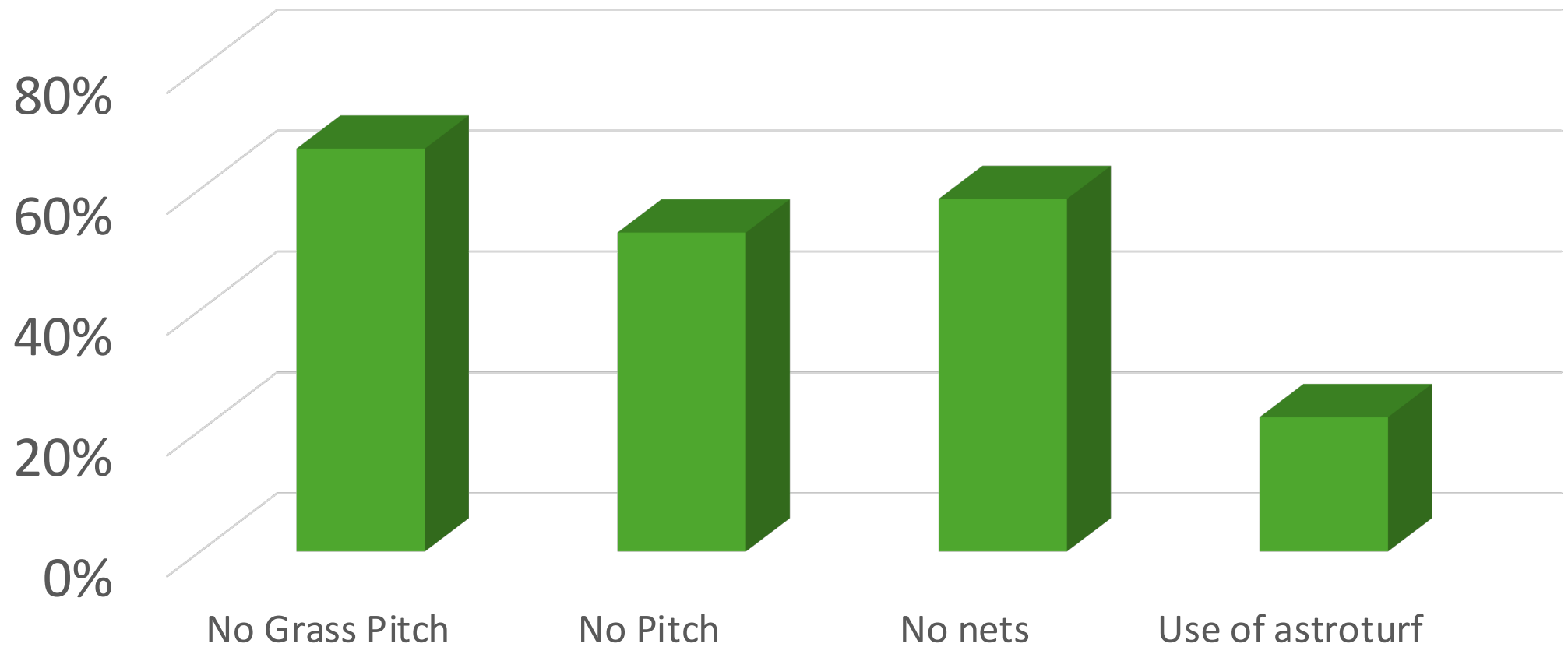


Boys	14761
Girls	8179

State Schools – Lack of Outdoor Facilities



Girl's Independent Schools - Lack of facilities



Post-ICEC comments

- Many schools report there is little or no change in county board policy apart from open trials
- Several schools mentioned a worsening relationship with their county board
- Some county boards appear to be doing more for schools than others
- State school only cups have been started in some counties
- County school cricket associations have been dissolved by county boards

Regarding VAT, Schools are reporting that:

- School rolls are falling – fewer teams and lower standards?
- Non-essential staff like cricket coaches are being laid off
- Budgets for running activities like cricket are being reduced affecting investment in facilities, purchase of equipment and use of umpires.
- School bursars cutting back on transport to away matches and match catering
- Less outside hiring of facilities due to increased costs to outside users
- Sports scholarships are being phased out
- Reduction in overseas tours
- Closure of Prep schools leading to less talent coming through

General comments - Apart from the financial considerations, schools noted:

- Exams and staffing remain the biggest challenges
- Tendency to move towards shorter format cricket due to pressure from SLTs, parents and children themselves
- More leadership is needed from the ECB and county boards who don't seem to value school cricket
- MCC Foundation Hubs felt to be doing a better job than county boards
- Partnerships with clubs not always successful
- Impacts of climate change

ECB Recreational Cricket Safety Guidelines



The updated regulations and new guidance include:

- Male players aged under 18 **MUST** wear a groin protector (box) when also required to wear a helmet.
- Regulations apply to a player's age, not their age group.
- Players **aged 12** can play open age cricket.
- Written approval **MUST** be obtained from parents/guardians and the County Pathway Lead before a player **aged 11 and who has started School Year 7** is eligible to play open age cricket.

- Clubs **MUST** have regard to certain considerations before playing a junior cricketer in open age cricket or in an age group above the player's actual age group.
- Umpires, captains and team managers **MUST** take certain steps to enforce the new safety regulations in matches.
- Reduction in the number of overs per bowler, per spell and other additional regulations.
- Updated fielding regulations relating to ages and distances from striking batter.

The Future?

schoolscricketonline.co.uk

admin@schoolscricketonline.co.uk

<https://forms.office.com/r/mYHxXF3EL6>

MCC Updates: Opportunities for schools

Fraser Stewart

Head of Cricket

Emma Marsh

Women's Cricket Manager



MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

The world's most active cricket club



Fraser Stewart
Head of Cricket
fraser.stewart@mcc.org.uk



Emma Marsh
Women's Cricket Manager
emma.marsh@mcc.org.uk



MCC WOMEN'S CRICKET

- Adult, competitive, community-based cricket
- Play at Lord's and other incredible venues across the country
- Annual overseas tours
- Fixtures to suit any schedule
- Fast-track to MCC membership



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**INTERESTED IN
JOINING?**

More Information:

www.lords.org/mcc/the-club/women-and-girls

Any questions?

Email:

emma.marsh@mcc.org.uk

Phone: 07990 432798

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indoorcricketcentre@lords.org

Website:
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ECB: Development and Performance

Mike Yardy

Head Coach England U19s, Young Lions

How we coach

HOW WE IMPROVE INDIVIDUALS AS PEOPLE AND PLAYERS

Coach the game

- Solve game problems/encourage them to be brave to make decisions, if not sure ask
- Observe & options for development
- Help players understand opposition perspectives

Grow confidence

- what ifs....clarity on game
- Evidence of player's strength through analysis & observations
- strengths based coaching - what can they do ***drive & challenge this for improvement***

Individualised

- Analysis & review
- specific coaching conversations
- IDP 'one focus area' & plan appropriately around it
- Connect with player
- Connect them to badge



Preparing Bowlers for T20 Cricket

Jack Brooks
Surrey Bowling Coach



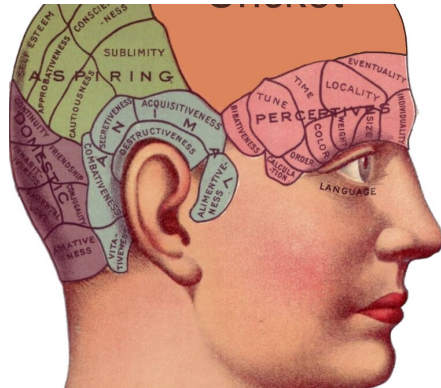
Preparing Bowlers for T20 Cricket.

Presented by
Jack Brooks

Key Focus Areas

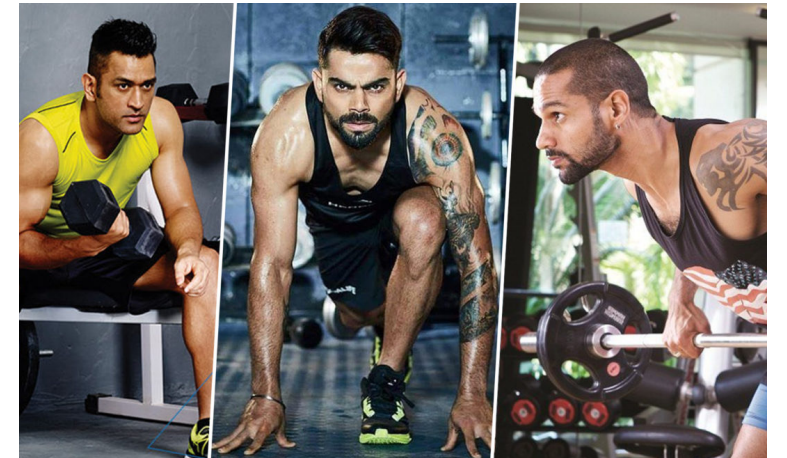
- Strength & Conditioning
- Technique
- Tactics/Roles
- Execution
- Mindset

- # Key Focus Areas
- Strength & Conditioning
 - Technique
 - Tactics/Roles
 - Execution
 - Mindset



Strength & Conditioning

1. Max speed & running technique efficiency
2. Trunk/core strength
3. Strength & Power
4. Movement quality & Coordination
5. Aerobic Capacity



Strength & Conditioning

- Max speed & running technique efficiency

-WHY?

Generate sufficient momentum to transfer into delivery (ball speed)

-HOW?

-Upright running technique, switches, skips, bounds, dribbles & wickets.

-Sprint efforts (transfer the technical drills into actual sprinting is key for adaption to take place)



Strength & Conditioning

- Trunk/Core strength

Why?

- Injury prevention, improve & control effectively -rotation, extension, flexion, lateral flexion, anti-rotation & anti-extension.
- Trunk allows for effective transfer of momentum (upper & lower segments of body) up the chain into the ball.
- Injury prevention

How?

An S&C program that incorporates a variety of dynamic trunk movements.



Strength & Conditioning

- Strength & Power

Why?

- Up to 9x bodyweight of braking forces goes through front foot contact.
- Whole body movement
- Mitigate injury risk/improve robustness
- Back foot contact to ball release in 0.15-0.30 seconds

How?

- Comprehensive program of Lifts/Jumps/Throws
- Multi-planar exercises eg broad jumps, vertical jumps, lateral bounds.



Strength & Conditioning

- **Movement quality & Coordination**

Why?

- Manage the forces that our body generates effectively & efficiently
- Limit overload of important structures (lumbar spine)
- Extensive balance & timing demands
- Better movers will be better athletes (discover & develop)

How?

- Develop strength & movement quality in tandem
- Expose athletes to a wide variety of movements when young
- Diversify training (encourage other sports)



Strength & Conditioning

- Aerobic Capacity

Why?

- Allows bowlers to sustain and recover quicker from intermittent high intensity efforts.
- Fast bowlers can be required to cover 6.5km during a T20 match

How?

- Play other field based sports or encourage swimming/cycling.
- targeted conditioning sessions



Technique

Nail the basics

- Bowl straight @ top of stumps/yorker/bouncer (unless wide plan).
- Bowl to your field.
- Use conventional swing with new ball and reverse if possible at death.
- Communicate with captain/bowlers. Swing/pitch/pace etc.

Variations

- Pace off/slower balls/knuckle balls- for RH & LH.
- Yorkers & Bouncers (set fields for the ball you plan for)
- Seam position (find a way to make the ball deviate off the pitch)
- Crease position at delivery.
- Wide line.



Tactics/Roles

Powerplay strategy

- Attack with new ball where possible. 3 wkts+
- Keep it simple.
- Stock ball majority

Middle Overs Strategy

- Mixing pace & variations?
- Look to attack and take wickets
- Get hit to boundary fielders

Death Overs Strategy

- Precise Yorkers
- Wide line? (boundary dimension/batter strength/close off one side)
- Dipping or lateral movement slow balls
- Try keep over to 7 runs or less as target



Tactics/Roles

- Have Plan A and stick to it where possible-execution?
- Communicate with captain ie pitch/swing/pace/spin with best options
- Always set field for ball you want to execute.
- Keep it simple where possible.

Spinners

- Find a way to be effective
- Keep stumps in play as much as possible
- Spin both ways where possible
- Mix up pace/crease position
- Economy rate 6.5-7rpo.
- Practice yorkers



Execution

- Have field set for the execution of the plan/delivery.
- Practice change ups & Yorkers.
- Pressure practice/scoring system with death scenarios.
- Yorker golf
 - Two Slow ball options. That move away from the LH and the RH
 - Explore a slow ball that dips and deviates
- Clarity at top of run up.



Mindset

- Positive mindset, TRUST best possible outcome with execution and field placings.
- Strong character & positive body language
- Handle high pressure moments
- Match winner
- Absolute clarity
- Take a breath, relax shoulders.
- Focus on next ball not previous.
- Acceptance & acknowledge its not always your day. Process driven.
- Get confident at training under pressure



Thanks for
your time.



Jack Brooks

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