

DARLING DOWNS & SOUTH WEST QUEENSLAND CRICKET INC.

*Promoting, administering and growing cricket
for Darling Downs and South West Queenslanders*

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JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2026

Preface

For the past several years, DD&SWQ Cricket Inc has successfully designed and implemented a yearly 'Junior Development Program'. This program accommodates both male and female junior pathway players and is a companion document for the **DD&SWQ Junior Representative Pathways Procedures Policy** document.

This Junior Development Program includes four elements:

- The **Expression of Interest (EOI)** as the process to inform the Zone of a player's interest in being part of the program.
- The **Talent Identification Sessions** as the pathway/process for the identification of all Zone Junior players, outside of the previous year's squad of 24. The number of expressions of interest received, will inform the exact nature of this year's Talent Identification.
- The **Winter Academy** as an opportunity for players to develop their skills in a high-performance environment during the off-season.
- Participation in **Representative Cricket**- Southern Challenge and Development Carnivals.

1. Expression of Interest (EOI)

The EOI process informs Darling Downs and South West Queensland Cricket Inc of a player's interest in being part of the Junior Development Program for the 2026-27 year and must be completed by all players. All players (new or returning) wishing to be considered for the Junior Development Program are required to express interest for the program via a Microsoft Form provided by the Zone.

This form will open on the 02 February 2026 and close on the 16 of February 2026.

2. Talent Identification Sessions

A. Introduction

The DD&SWQ Cricket Inc. **Junior Representative Pathways Procedures Policy** clearly describes the pathway/process for the selection of all Zone Junior players outside of the previous year's squad of 24. The Talent Identification process supports and extends this JRPP Policy for both the male and female players.

B. Purpose

The primary purpose of the Talent Identification Process is to provide the pathway/process for identification of all Zone Junior players outside of the previous year's squad of 24, inclusive of Qld Cricket Southern Challenge teams and Zone Development teams. Any player outside of the previous season's squad of 24 players in each age group, seeking invitation into Zone teams must participate in this process.

C. Talent Identification Process- Male & Female

The number of expressions of interest received, will inform the exact nature of these Talent Identification activities. However, those players who have expressed interest will be invited to participate in specific development sessions. Players who are not available for any of these sessions and are still wanting to participate in the Junior Development Program, are to complete an exemption form and submit it to the Zone.

D. Squad/Team Selection- Female

At the conclusion of the **Talent Identification Sessions**, a squad of players per age group (13s and 15s) will be selected, with squad members then being invited to participate in the DD&SWQ Winter Academy Program. At the conclusion of the Winter Academy Program, teams of 12 players will be named for the under 13s and 15s to represent the Zone at the relevant carnival. Team Coaches and Managers will be announced simultaneously.

E. Squad/Team Selection- Male

At the conclusion of the **Talent Identification Sessions**, a squad of players per age group (12s, 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s) will be selected, with squad members then being invited to participate in the DD&SWQ Winter Academy Program. At the conclusion of the Winter Academy Program, teams of 12 players will be named for the under 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s and to represent the Zone at the relevant carnival. Team Coaches and Managers will be announced simultaneously.

3. Winter Academy Program

A. Introduction

The DD&SWQ Cricket Inc. **Junior Representative Pathways Procedures** Policy clearly describes the pathway/process for the selection of all Zone Junior squads/teams. The Winter Academy Program supports and extends this JRPP Policy for both the male and female players.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the Winter Academy is to provide a program where our players will have opportunities to develop their skills in a **high-performance environment** during the off-season, with the result being better prepared players and teams for the higher level of cricket that the Southern Challenge, Development Carnivals and other pathway opportunities will offer.

C. Structure

- **Coaching and Development Sessions**

These sessions will be held at a venue that provides access to high performance facilities and coaches.

- **Training and Trial Games**

Squads will gather at host locations across the Zone for a training session and game activity.

4. Representative Competitions

A. Female

Zone teams will compete in the following competitions (as usual):

- **U13-** Southern Challenge and the Mel Bulow Cup.
- **U15-** Southern Challenge.
- **All age groups-** other competitions as deemed appropriate by the Zone.

B. Male

Zone teams will compete in the following competitions (as usual):

- **U12, 13, 14** - Southern Challenge.
- **U12-** Ian Healy Cup.
- **U13-** Les Kinnane Memorial Shield.

- **U14-** Don Bambling Cup.
- **U15-** SQCC Southern Hub.
- **U15-** Glynn Williams Cup.
- **U16-** Bulls Masters Country Challenge.
- **All age groups-** other competitions as deemed appropriate by the Zone.

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