



ACA Premier Cricket Program

Season 2021-22



Background to the ACA

The ACA is the collective and representative voice of past and present male and female domestic and international cricketers in Australia.

The ACA was established in 1997 to:

- { Safeguard the rights of both present and past first-class cricketers;
- { Provide for and improve the welfare of its members;
- { Provide advice, services and assistance to members;
- { Pursue initiatives that will ultimately benefit the membership; and
- { Promote the sport of cricket.

“ Now committed to a seventh and eighth year of the ACA Premier Cricket Program, the current players remain focused on ensuring Premier Cricket remains the lifeblood of Australian Cricket. The ACA are pleased to now provide equal funding to both the Male and Female clubs, which should continue to forge great success in supporting ACA Member to identify, instruct and inspire the next generation of players with the Premier Cricket Pathway

Kelly Applebee, General Manager - Member Programs and Relations



What is the ACA Premier Cricket Program?

The ACA Premier Cricket Program has been designed to support ACA members in their post-cricket lives via a program that retains and harnesses the skill, experience and knowledge of ACA Members to identify, instruct and inspire talent through both the male and female Premier Cricket pathways.

Background

In 2015/16 Australia's elite male cricketers launched the ACA Premier Cricket Program.

The program has been an overwhelming success. Starting within male Premier Cricket in 2015/16, the Program took the exciting step to expand into female Premier Cricket in 2017/18.

The program has been an overwhelming success over the last four seasons. 325 different ACA members have been engaged and benefited from one on 525 grants that have been provided to 105 Premier Cricket clubs around the country.

Program Funding

Funding comes as a result of Cricket Australia advising the ACA that the Player Payment Pool (PPP) was estimated to increase by \$43 million compared to original estimates for the 2012-17 MOU period.

At the completion of a research project during the 2013-14 season, the players unanimously chose to dedicate some of this increase to initiatives that will help strengthen the game.



Objectives of the Program

- { Provide a platform for ACA members to remain in Premier Cricket through playing, coaching and talent identification roles;
- { Narrow the gap between Premier Cricket and high performance/ domestic cricket;
- { Create **additional** opportunities for clubs to support and enhance existing budgets and structures;
- { Grow a sustainable program that ensures Premier Cricket remains the lifeblood of Australian Cricket;
- { Retain first-class cricketers in Premier Cricket;
- { Provide a higher level of Premier Cricket competition;
- { Identify, instruct and inspire the next generation of Australian elite cricketers; and
- { To balance Premier Club objectives with the development of emerging talent.



Eligibility

This program is designed to narrow the gap between Premier Cricket and high performance/domestic cricket. On this basis funding is available to any Premier Cricket Clubs who have 1st XI teams competing for the entire season in the top Premier competition in the state. These are the clubs that provide a direct pathway or 'home club' for current and aspiring professional cricketers.



The Program provides a platform for ACA members to remain in Premier Cricket and help narrow the gap between this level of competition and high performance / domestic cricket. It will also help identify, instruct and inspire the next generation of Australian and elite domestic cricketers.

The programs' overwhelming success and the important growth of women's cricket led players to take the exciting step to expand the program to include female Premier Cricket Clubs in 2017-18

Premier Cricket around the country continues to evolve; the program expanded in 2018/19 with additional 1st XI female teams.

Based off a number of criteria, fully integrated clubs with male and female teams playing in the 1st XI competition will be eligible to receive up to \$13,000 in 2021-22. Clubs with Male teams only will be able to access up to \$6,500 and clubs with Female teams only, with the top team playing in the 1st XI competition will also be able to access an equal amount to the Male Premier Clubs, \$6,500.

No individual ACA Member will be able to access more than \$7,500 in program funding. The ACA will continue to apply discretion around funding structures for developing clubs and competitions across the country. In determining funding levels, we have considered a number of criteria including:

- { The number of teams within the club;
- { The number of games played;
- { Time committed to Premier Cricket; and
- { Whether the 1st Grade side provides the last step in the pathway to domestic cricket.

Clubs are encouraged to engage uncontracted ACA members in a role that will harness the playing and coaching experience of the individual member.

The program is supported by Cricket Australia (CA) and the State Associations and is one of a number of joint ACA-CA projects that are being undertaken to develop cricket at all levels.

As Premier Cricket is evolving around the country, the ACA will continue to apply discretion around the expansion of the program.



Who are we looking for?

The Program is designed to retain and attract current or eligible ACA members to Premier Cricket who:

- { Value the Premier Cricket competition and its position as the lifeblood of Australian cricket and its vital position within the Australian cricket pathway;
- { Are past, transitioning or uncontracted players with a desire to identify, instruct and inspire players within the Australian Cricket Pathway;
- { Hold Level 2 Coaching qualifications (desirable);

Eligible Roles

Roles within this program could include any of the following positions:

- { Head Coach or Player/Coach
- { Director of Cricket/High Performance Manager
- { Senior Assistant Coach
- { Assistant Coach/Lower XI Player
- { Junior Talent Coach / Player / Mentor
- { First Grade Player

Key Member Tasks

Those appointed would undertake a range of tasks and it is anticipated these would include:

- { Assisting in the identification and recruitment of talented players;

- { The mentoring of players and coaches – utilising high performance language, messages and game styles/plans;
- { Promoting National/State coaching and selection philosophies to club leaders and players;
- { Providing intelligence from Premier Cricket competitions to State Talent Managers/Selectors;
- { Acting as a conduit to share information and expectations to coaches, selectors and players at club level;
- { Reviewing and assessing potential contracted players for underage and senior state squads; and
- { Identifying strengths and weaknesses in Premier Cricket.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible?

Male & female uncontracted ACA members (an ACA member is any male or female cricketer who has held an International, State, BBL/WBBL, Rookie or Match Contract). These may include:

- { Recently delisted players who still have playing aspirations;
- { Past players (who are current or eligible ACA Members) with a desire to identify, instruct and inspire players within the Australian Cricket Pathway;
- { Players who still have BBL/WBBL contracts are still considered contracted players and therefore ineligible for the program.

How do I reconnect with a Premier Club if I have been out of the system for a number of years and/or how can clubs access past players outside their current network?

We encourage that ACA members and clubs reach out to each other directly, but if either a club or an ACA member needs assistance to engage in the program, please register your interest by contacting us and applying through the appropriate online forms.

Can multiple members be utilised within a club?

- { Yes, as long as the funding is used to engage an ACA member, clubs can split the funding between multiple members.
- { For fully integrated clubs, no individual ACA member is able to access more than \$7,500 of Premier Cricket Program funding.
- { It is important that ACA members involved are to engage in genuine ongoing season long commitments and not used as sporadic specialist coaches.

Can ACA members engage across both the male and female programs?

If a club cannot contract a female coach in the first instance, members can work across both male and female programs however, a maximum of \$7,500 will be provided to that one member.

Do I have to be a female to be involved in the female program, or a male to be involved in the male program?

No, all uncontracted ACA members (either male or female) are eligible to receive funding for their commitment in either male or female Premier Cricket.

Do I need a Working with Children check/Police check?

It is a legal requirement in Australia for anyone working with children to undertake an authorised check. Participation in this Program will involve working with children. You will need to undertake a check and provide details to your club executives.

When are payments processed?

Once all program requirements have been completed from both members and clubs, payments are paid in two equal installments to the club.

It is the clubs' responsibility to make arrangements to pay these funds onto the ACA members.

- { First payment - at the start of the season in October
- { Second payment - at the end of the season in March

“ Having been out of the game for two years, I was craving a competitive environment and also felt I could pass on some of the knowledge I have built over my career. The process was very simple and I have always felt supported it just gives the club and myself something that is extremely beneficial.

I couldn't have loved my experience anymore and feel there is plenty more to give. With two businesses on the go the extra money helped free me up and not lose that extra little bit that is dearly needed in this time.

- John Hastings, Frankston CC



How do I apply for the ACA Premier Cricket Program?

Please read through this brochure carefully to understand the benefits and services that are available and how you can access them.

Premier Cricket club administrators can complete an application once they have established a relationship with an ACA member. Alternatively, you can identify a specific role vacancy within your club that you would like a prospective ACA member to fill. The ACA will then look to provide assistance with filling these roles.

We ask that any interested ACA members complete a Member Application form if they have a Premier Cricket Club.

Megan Pauwels

Manager - Past Players

Email: premiercricket@auscricket.com.au



“ It is pleasing the ACA Premier Cricket Program continues to engage ACA Members to develop and strengthen the next generation of Premier Cricket talent. With over 325 ACA Members having been involved in the program the ACA are excited to be in a position to commit to the funding for further two seasons via the assurance of the current players.

Todd Greenberg - Chief Executive Officer
Australian Cricketers Association

Australian Cricketers' Association

