Multidimensional Antecedents for Expertise: Findings from a Developmental Survey in Cricket

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To gain a better understanding of micro, meso and macro level factors and their interaction which underpin the development of talent and expertise specific to the sport of cricket, an online player development survey was developed and administered to players of all competitive levels, across Australia. Key themes explored within the survey included socio-developmental background (number of siblings, relative age of siblings to respondent, sporting and coaching profile of siblings and parents, socio-economic background etc), support systems (familial, club, peers), developmental milestones, transition and trajectory, contextual factors such as accessibility to training and competition venues, coaching provision, the club environment and the impact and perception of chance events. Data were used to compare recreational (non-elite), pre-elite and elite players between the ages of 18 and 25 across all of these themes in order to identify potential commonalities and differences between cohorts. Inclusion of a psychological inventory within the survey (measuring self determination, negotiation efficacy and resistance to change) also allowed for potential relationships between a cricketer’s socio-developmental and contextual background, their level of performance and their psychological commitment to the one sport, to be explored. Results will inform an empirical multidimensional model of sporting development specific to cricket (Gulbin & Weissensteiner, in press).
