



**ACA**

AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS'  
ASSOCIATION

# **CURRENT PLAYER SURVEY**



**NOVEMBER 2009**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Cricketers' Association surveys its current playing membership annually on a range of issues affecting the game. Results assist in providing direction for Cricket Australia, State and Player Association administrators, and provide an insight for fans into the thoughts of the players who work professionally in the industry.

Player views have clearly changed in the past year in regard to a number of issues. The volume of cricket being played has continued to increase, and players have expressed real concern over the future of the game if the current scheduling continues.

Players see the volume of cricket as the biggest issue for world cricket to address, followed by security and safety issues and the increasing conflict between representing club and country.

The advent of the Indian Premier League and other domestic based Twenty20 competitions has changed the cricket landscape forever. Players in some countries can now potentially earn as much money, or more, from playing in these Leagues as they can from representing their country – and earn that money in a much shorter time-frame.

Following the decision by Andrew Flintoff to reject an ECB contract in favour of a freelance career, 67% of players can now see an Australian player in the future turning down a Cricket Australia contract to pursue a freelance career.

The need to continually generate interest in Test cricket has led administrators to look towards Day/Night cricket. Players though are yet to embrace the concept with 57% of Cricket Australia players not supportive of a move to the non-traditional timeslots.

Player views are rarely anything but insightful, interesting and worthy of considerable thought. The results included in this survey provide a fascinating glance at the thoughts of those living and breathing the game on a daily basis.

The survey was conducted on-line in November 2009, and elicited responses from the majority of Cricket Australia and State contracted players.

# HEADLINE STATISTICS

## Structure of Cricket

1. Volume of Cricket is seen as the biggest issue for world cricket to address
2. Only 22% of Players support leaving the FTP as it is, including only 18% of CA players
3. As part of a new FTP for the period 2012-20:
  - a. 78% of Players support a Global Test Championship
  - b. 61% of Players support a Global ODI Championship
  - c. 64% of Players support a Global Twenty20 Championship.
4. Players believe 2 years is the preferred length of time for all Championships
5. Players are divided over the future number of ICC events
6. 79% of CA players believe that Australia is playing too many ODIs
7. 87% of Players believe the ideal number of games in a bilateral ODI series is five
8. 86% of CA players do not want to be rested from any international cricket matches
9. CA and State Players rate the 2010-11 Ashes as the most important upcoming series
10. The majority of players believe the game can support three formats
11. 66% of Players advise Test / Sheffield Shield cricket is their preferred form of cricket to play and 53% of Players advise ODI / Ford Ranger Cup cricket is their least preferred form of cricket to play
12. Players' preference is to watch Test / Sheffield Shield and Twenty20 cricket but they least like to watch ODI / FRC cricket
13. Players see uneven contests and flat wickets as having the greatest potential to threaten Test cricket

## Freelancing v 12 Month Contracts

1. 98% of Players have never considered rejecting a CA contract to become a freelance cricketer
2. 67% of Players can see an Australian cricketer turning down a CA contract to pursue a freelance career
3. Players have mixed views as to the option of rejecting a national contract to pursue a freelance career
4. Players still greatly value the prestige of representing their country, however they will consider early retirement to play in the IPL
5. 87% of Players believe the IPL is good for the game
6. 60% of Players believe all-rounders can manage playing in all three forms of the game
7. 66% of Players would consider retiring from one form of the game and are most likely to choose to retire from ODI cricket

## **Playing Conditions**

1. 57% of CA Players do not support the introduction of Day / Night Test cricket
2. 87% of CA Players support the introduction of the Umpire Referral System
3. 43% of CA Players are still unsure as to whether the system has been successful or unsuccessful
4. 92% of CA Players would like to see better technology used to improve the Umpire Referral System
5. 85% of Players believe the umpiring in domestic cricket is either excellent, very good or good
6. 64% of CA Players believe the umpiring in international cricket is either excellent, very good or good
7. 50% of CA Players have concerns about the WADA whereabouts provisions

## **Domestic Cricket**

1. Over 80% of Players view the Sheffield Shield as the most important domestic competition
2. 97% of Players regarded the inaugural Champions League T20 as a success
3. 85% of Players do not believe that the Champions League T20 has taken the focus away from the Australian domestic summer and 85% do not believe that the Champions League T20 is compromising the importance of international cricket.
4. 54% of Players want to retain the same number of Sheffield Shield and Ford Ranger Cup games should the Big Bash ever expand
5. 81% of Players (including 60% aged 23 and under) do not support the introduction of age restrictions for the Futures League

## **Selection**

1. 87% of Players believe there are enough opportunities presently provided to young cricketers
2. 79% of Players believe there are enough opportunities being provided to spin bowlers
3. Only 26% of Players believe each Australian team should contain a spin bowler
4. 77% of Players believe a full-time selector is needed

## **Players / Teams / Venues**

1. South Africa is the best opposition Test team
2. India is the best opposition ODI team
3. India is the best opposition Twenty20 team
4. Graeme Smith is the best opposition captain
5. Dale Steyn is the best opposition fast bowler
6. Sachin Tendulkar is the best opposition batsman
7. Muttiah Muralidaran is the best opposition spin bowler
8. Dirk Nannes and Brett Lee are the equal quickest bowlers in Australia

9. Phil Hughes and Peter Siddle are our best young batsman and fast bowler
10. Graham Manou is our best reserve gloveman
11. Shane Warne is the players' favourite commentator
12. The MCG is still the players' favourite ground, but the GABBA provides the best wickets
13. 43% of Players believe our wickets are becoming too similar for Test matches

# STRUCTURE OF CRICKET

## Current Situation

The structure of cricket continues to generate significant debate amongst all of the game's key stakeholders.

With the ICC currently finalising its Future Tours Program (FTP) for the period 2012-20, issues of volume of cricket, context for international cricket and how to find the best fit for international and club Twenty20 cricket are high on the agenda.

Given the direct correlation between the scheduling of matches and revenue for each of cricket's governing bodies, finding a solution to satisfy all of the game's stakeholders is an extremely challenging task. This task has become even more difficult with the recent advent of Twenty20 cricket, and the subsequent introduction of events such as the Indian Premier League and Champions League T20.

From a players' perspective, these significant changes to the game have opened up new opportunities and subsequently playing for one's country is no longer the only available option. The future structure of the game will very likely dictate the decisions players will make with regards to their playing futures.

## Players' View

### *Volume of Cricket is seen as the biggest issue for world cricket to address*

Given the unprecedented workload of the Australian teams over the past year, CA and State players not surprisingly rate the volume of cricket as being the most critical issue for world cricket to address.

Last year, this issue rated only second for CA players and fourth for State players with the conflict between representing club or country being the biggest issue.

Given the various security issues in recent times, players believe safety and security is the second most important issue for the game to address. The issue of the conflict between representing club or country has slipped to the third most important issue.

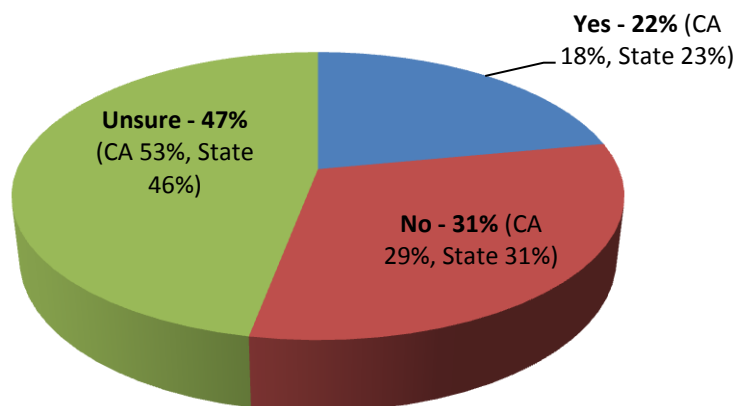
***Please rank the following issues in terms of their urgency for world cricket to address (1 being the most urgent)?***

	CA PLAYERS		STATE PLAYERS	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Volume of Cricket	2	1	4	1
ICC Leadership	4	4	5	4
Corruption	5	5	6	6
Playing Conditions (illegal actions, use of technology, umpiring)	3	6	2	5
Safety and security	NA	2	NA	2
Conflict between representing countries and competing in private Twenty20 leagues	1	3	1	3
Standard of Test Cricket	6	7	3	7

### **Only 22% of Players support leaving the FTP as it is, including only 18% of CA players**

Whilst 31% of players would definitely not support leaving the FTP as it is, 47% are unsure as to the approach moving forward.

***Would you support leaving the FTP as it is (i.e. a host of bi-lateral series with little or no context)***



**As part of a new FTP for the period 2012-20:**

- **78% of Players support a Global Test Championship**
- **61% of Players support a Global ODI Championship**
- **64% of Players support a Global Twenty20 Championship.**

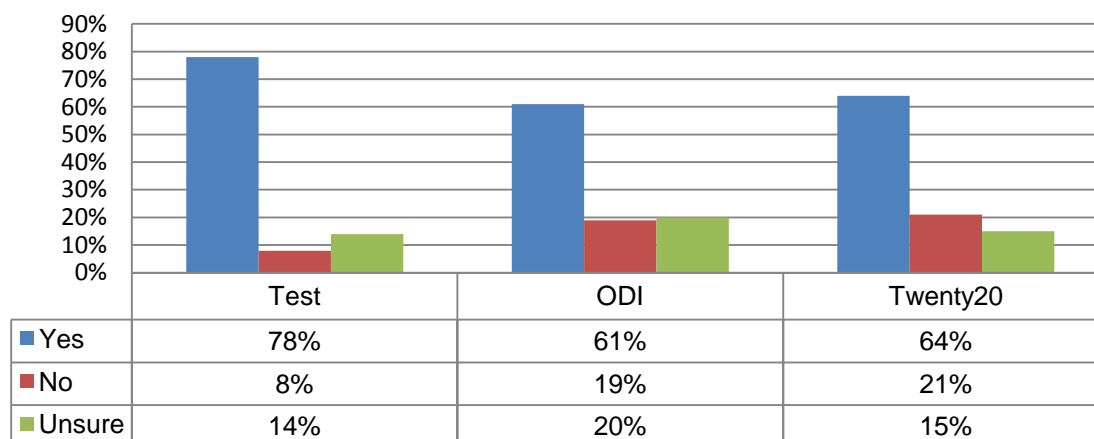
Players clearly want greater context in the FTP, particularly in Test cricket. Only 8% of players were against a Test Championship with 14% unsure.

Players also believe Championship models need to be introduced for International ODI and T20 cricket.

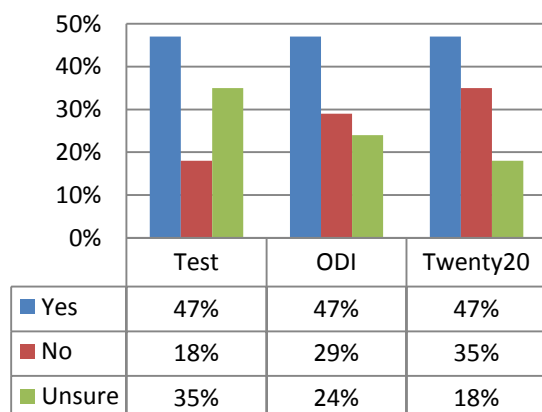
Interestingly, State players are stronger than CA players in their desire for the introduction of Championship models for each form of the game. Anecdotally this is due to the lack certainty surrounding the format of such Championships, and some CA players having concerns that a change to a Championship format may lead to an increase in the volume of cricket for international players.

Nevertheless the majority of players believe international cricket needs greater context.

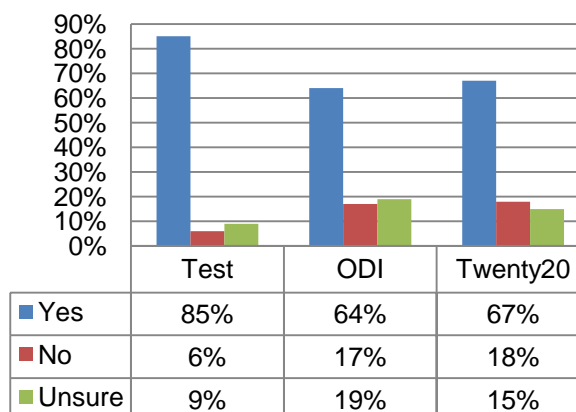
**Would you support a global championship, where every match is played as part of a championship to decide the champion?**



**CA Players**



**State Players**



**Players believe two years is the preferred length of time for all Championships**

Whilst the spread of responses was broad, the most common player response was for two year Championships for each form of the game.

The second most common response was “as long as required for all teams to play each other” and given very few players believe Championships should be held over three or four years, it could be reasonably assumed that these responses best fit into the two year category also.

Players were not surveyed on their support of the option of a two conference model, where Championships could be played over one year, however not allowing all teams to play each other, each year. As such this option should be further explored with players now that they have provided such definitive support for Championships for each form of the game.



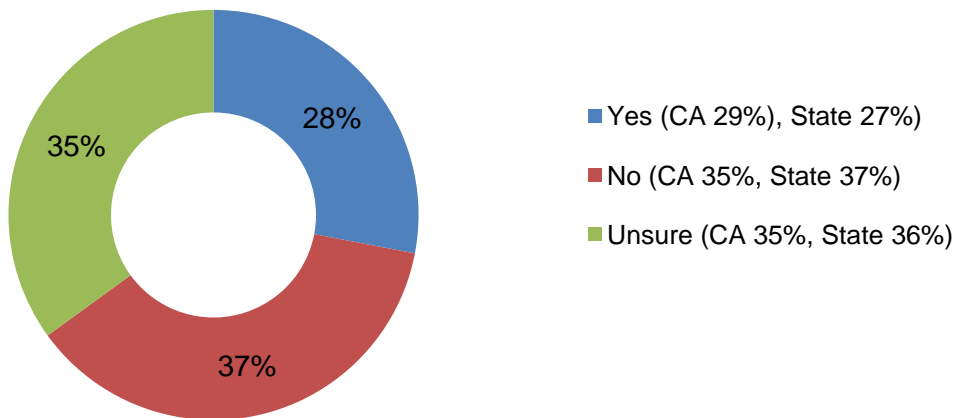
***If you support global championships in any / all forms of the game, over how many years should each Championship cover?***

	TOTAL			CA PLAYERS			STATE PLAYERS		
	TEST	ODI	T20	TEST	ODI	T20	TEST	ODI	T20
1 year	13%	22%	39%	11%	24%	25%	12%	21%	41%
2 years	37%	40%	33%	67%	38%	50%	34%	40%	31%
3 years	10%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	12%	3%	3%
4 years	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	0%
As long as required for all teams to play each other	37%	34%	25%	22%	38%	25%	39%	33%	25%

### **Players divided over the future number of ICC events**

Whilst the draft FTP for 2012-20 contemplates a reduction in ICC events from 2015, players are divided over the best approach moving forward. Where previously player opinion on the ICC Champions Trophy has been negative, the new format and success of the 2009 event in South Africa has led to a softening of previous views.

***Would you support having fewer ICC events?***



**Just 28% of players (CA 29%, State 27%) believe that the number of ICC events should decrease, 35% are unsure and 37% would not support any reduction.**

### **79% of CA players believe that Australia is playing too many ODIs**

Not surprisingly players continue to believe they play too many ODIs.

Alarming, this response has increased from only 36% in 2008.

29% of CA players and 33% of State players believe that the mix of cricket is currently "about right". One year ago 43% of CA players and 57% of State players thought likewise.

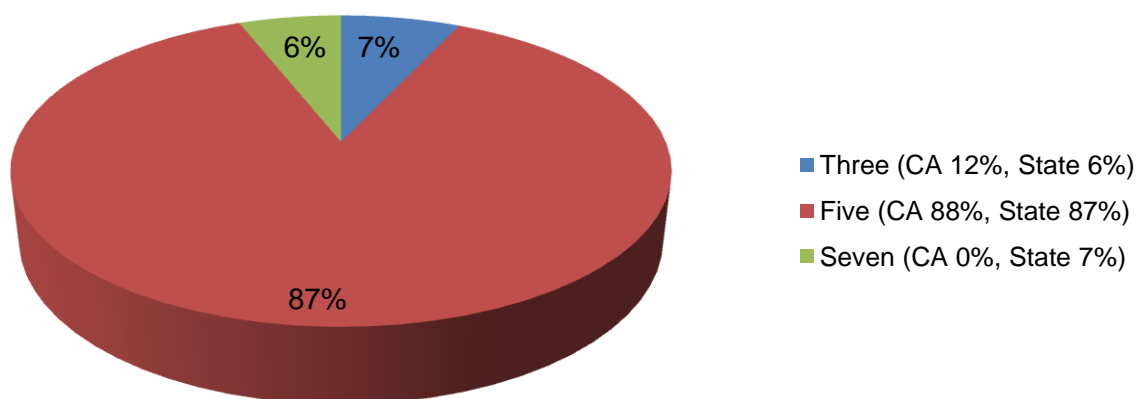
***Do you believe the current mix of Test, ODI and Test cricket is (more than one answer allowed):***

	CA PLAYERS		STATE PLAYERS	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
About right	43%	29%	57%	33%
Too many Tests	14%	7%	1%	7%
Too many ODIs	36%	79%	35%	56%
Too many T20s	14%	7%	3%	6%
Not enough Tests	7%	7%	3%	4%
Not enough ODIs	0%	0%	1%	0%
Not enough T20s	21%	7%	22%	22%

### **87% of Players believe that the ideal number of games in a bilateral ODI series is five**

In structuring the new FTP, players clearly believe the optimum number of ODIs in a head to head series is five. No CA player surveyed believes that seven is the right number of games in a bilateral ODI series.

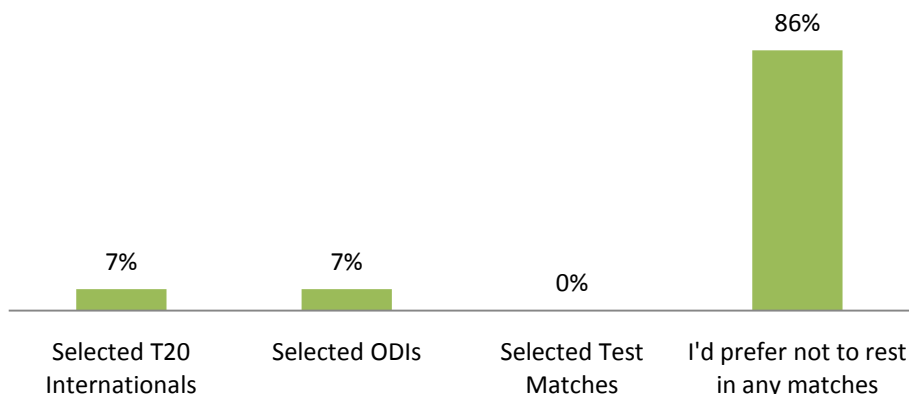
#### ***What is the ideal number of games in a bilateral ODI series?***



### **86% of CA players do not want to be rested**

Whilst the resting of Australian players from games, and in some cases tours, has become common place in recent times, players overwhelmingly would prefer not to rest from any games.

**(CA Players Only)**  
***In managing player workloads would you prefer to be rested for...***



**CA and State Players rate the 2010-11 Ashes as the most important upcoming series**

The standing of Test cricket, but especially the marquee Ashes series, was further strengthened when players were questioned on their priority for international matches and competitions.

The eagerly awaited 2010-11 Ashes series in Australia is the firm focus of both CA and State players. Interestingly, players saw the 2011 ODI World Cup as the second focus, before non-Ashes Test series.

One Day International marquee events such as the World Cup are still seen as a significant drawcard for current players.

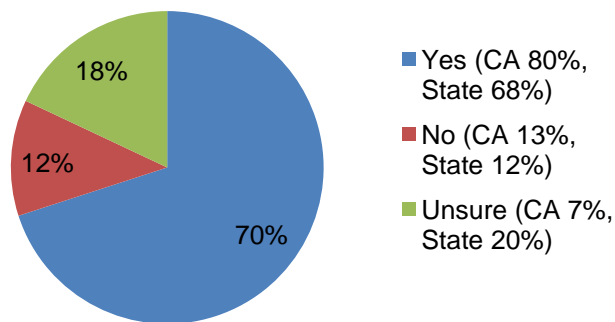
***Please rank the following in order of priority (1=most important, 6 = least important)?***

	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
ICC World T20 2010	4	4
2010-11 Ashes	1	1
2011 World Cup	2	2
Other Test series	3	3
Other T20 Internationals	6	6
Other ODI series	5	5

## The majority of players believe the game can support three formats

Players are confident that with the right structure cricket can continue to support the three forms of the game. In a telling result, just 12% of players believe that three forms cannot survive, 18% are unsure and 70% believe all three forms can survive.

### *Do you think cricket can support three formats?*



**66% of Players advise Test / Sheffield Shield cricket is their preferred form of cricket to play and 53% of Players advise ODI / Ford Ranger Cup cricket is their least preferred form of cricket to play**

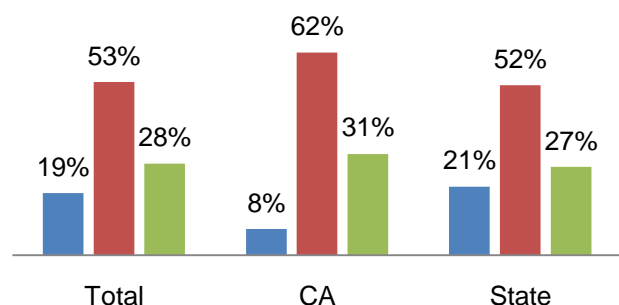
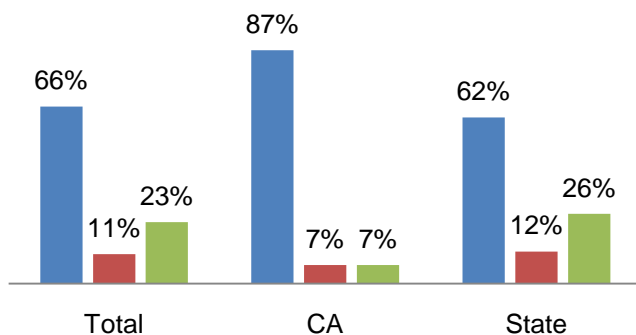
Despite the rise in popularity, interest and money brought to cricket by the Twenty20 version, the long forms of the game are still the players' preferred form of cricket to play, however T20 has overtaken 50 over cricket.

### *What is your favourite form of cricket to play?*

### *What is your least favourite form of cricket to play?*

■ Test / Sheffield Shield ■ ODI / Ford Ranger Cup  
■ Twenty 20

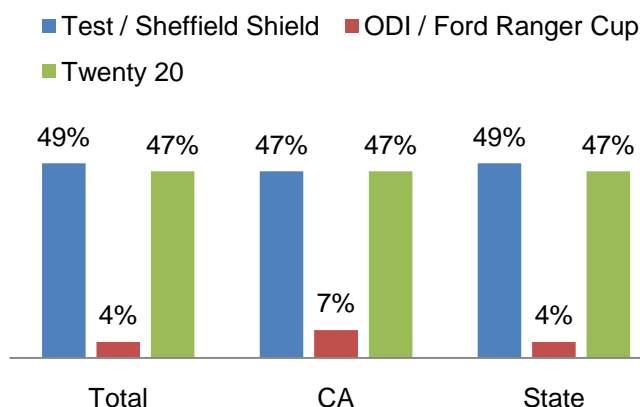
■ Test / Sheffield Shield ■ ODI / Ford Ranger Cup  
■ Twenty 20



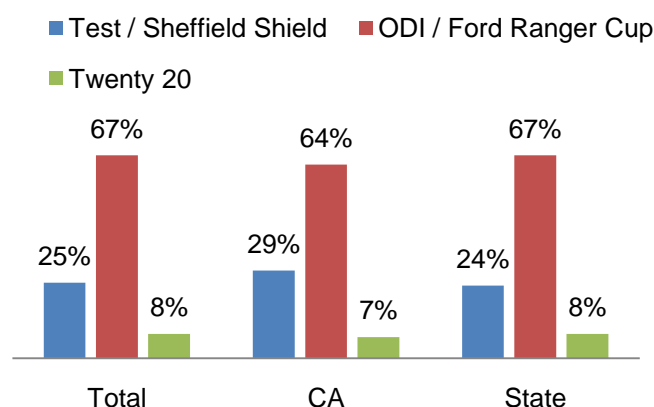
**Players' preference is to watch Test / Sheffield Shield and Twenty20 cricket but they least like to watch ODI / FRC cricket**

Players continue to enjoy the traditions of the long forms of the game but T20 cricket is now comparable from a 'player watching' perspective. ODIs / Ford Ranger Cup is clearly the least popular game for players to watch.

***What is your favourite form of cricket to watch?***

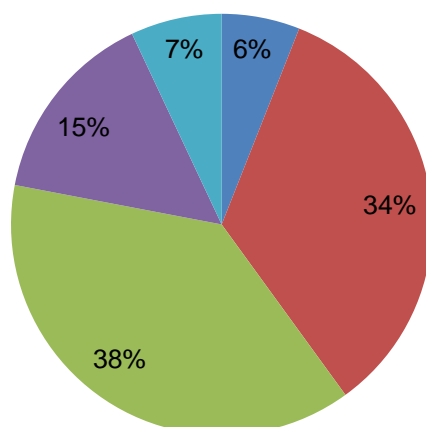


***What is your least favourite form of cricket to watch?***



**Players see uneven contests and flat wickets as having the greatest potential to threaten Test cricket**

***What do you regard as the biggest threat to Test cricket?***



- Slow over rates (CA 0%, State 7%)
- Flat pitches (CA 29%, State 35%)
- Uneven contests (CA 50%, State 36%)
- Twenty20 is a better product (CA 14%, State 15%)
- Other

# Freelancing v 12 Month Contracts

## Current Situation

With the introduction of the IPL and Champions League T20 and with the potential for more club T20 competitions to emerge, the cricketing landscape is changing rapidly.

Some players are sacrificing national contracts to ensure that they are free and available to take up opportunities that may come their way. They are as a consequence also freeing themselves from the many restrictions contained within their national contracts.

Historically this path has not been feasible for cricketers. The majority of opportunities for players have been largely limited to international cricket and as such there has been huge disparity between the remuneration of those players in the larger and smaller countries. The introduction of club based T20 competitions has created a far freer player market and players are now seriously exploring the options available to them.

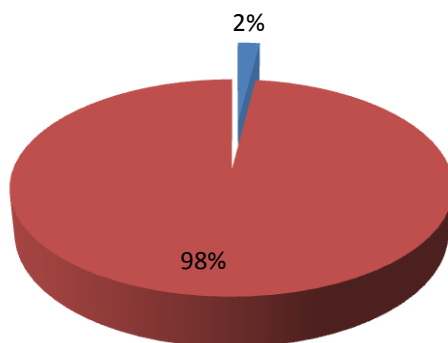
## Players' View

### 98% of players have never considered rejecting a CA contract to become a freelance cricketer

Historically, the current contracted players have not considered rejecting a CA contract to become freelance cricketers. It is important to note, however that several Australian players rejected State contracts to join the defunct Indian Cricket League (ICL).

#### *In the past, have you ever considered rejecting a CA contract to become a freelance cricketer?*

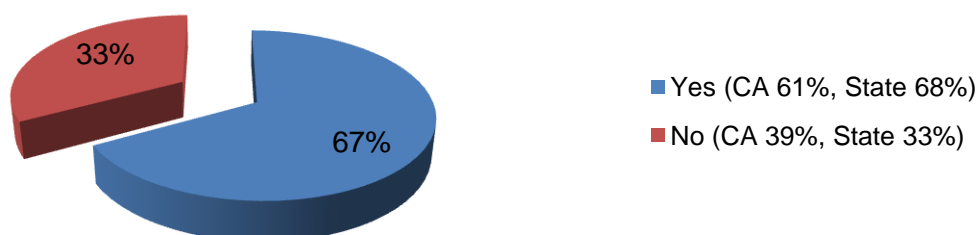
■ Yes (CA 0%, State 2%) ■ No (CA 100%, State 98%)



## 67% of Players can see an Australian cricketer turning down a CA contract to pursue a freelance career

Whilst players haven't historically turned down CA contracts to pursue freelance careers, the majority of players believe this will happen in the future.

***Can you envisage an Australian cricketer, in the short to medium term, turning down a central contract to pursue a freelance career, much like Andrew Flintoff?***

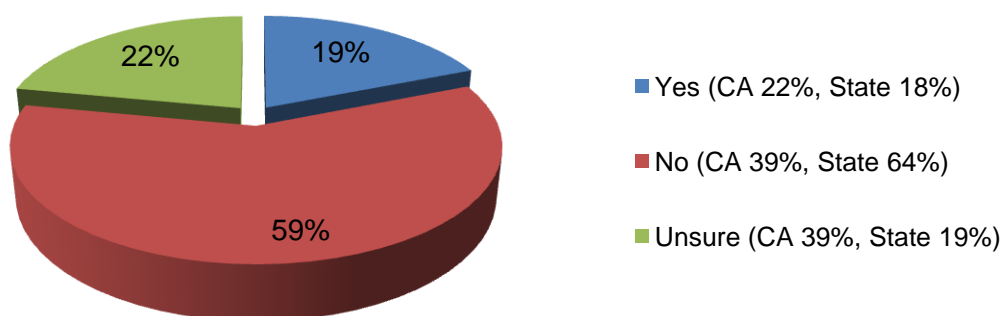


## Players have mixed views as to the option of rejecting a national contract to pursue a freelance career

Players are clearly thinking about their future cricketing options with 19% advising they would consider rejecting a national contract to pursue a freelance career and 39% unsure as to whether or not they would.

State players are far less likely to consider rejecting a national contract to pursue a freelance career.

***In the future, would you consider rejecting a national contract to become a freelance cricketer?***



## Players still greatly value the prestige of representing their country

The single most important factor that CA and State players would consider in choosing between a national and freelance career is the prestige of representing Australia.

For CA players, just coming off a grueling schedule that consisted of, in some instances, nine months away from home, time spent away from home was the second most popular reason, with financial opportunities third. State players, who spend the majority of their time at home, ranked money the second factor.

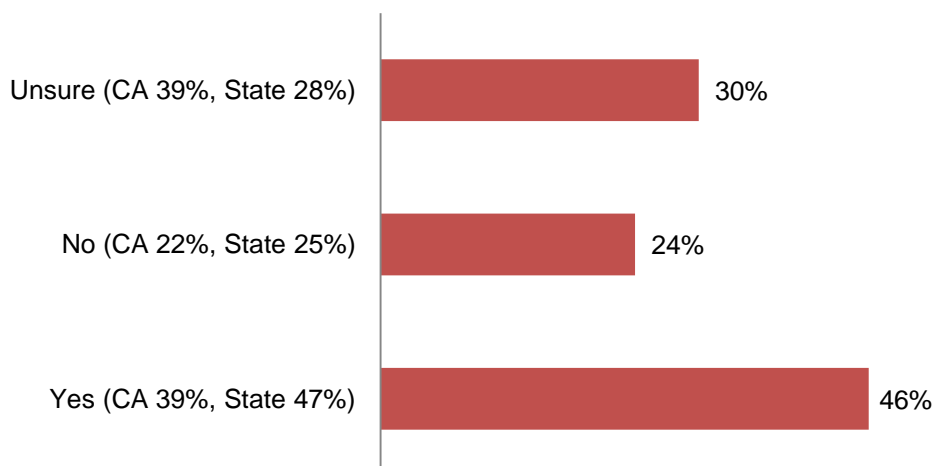
***In weighing up the decision as to whether or not you'd pursue a freelance career, in order of importance (1=most important, 5 = least important) what factors could influence your decision?***

	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
The prestige of representing your country	1	1
Money	3	2
Time spent away from home	2	3
Wear and tear on your body/injuries	4	4
Scheduling clashes between domestic competitions (e.g. IPL) and International cricket	5	5

## Players consider early retirement to play in the IPL

With 46% of players saying they would consider early retirement to play in the IPL and 30% saying they're unsure, it is more important than ever that Australian cricket continues to give our players reasons to remain in the international game.

***Would you consider early retirement to play in the IPL?***

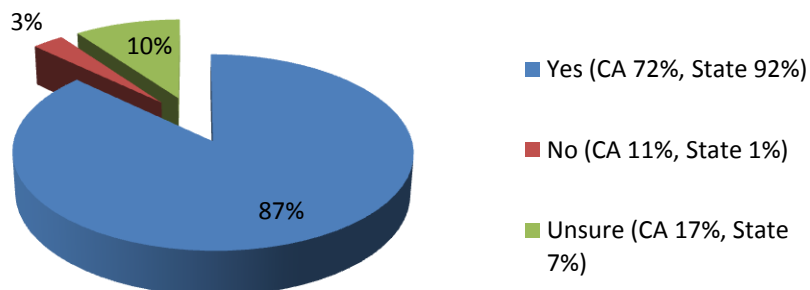




### 87% of current players believe the IPL is good for the game

Just 3% of current players do not believe the IPL is good for the game.

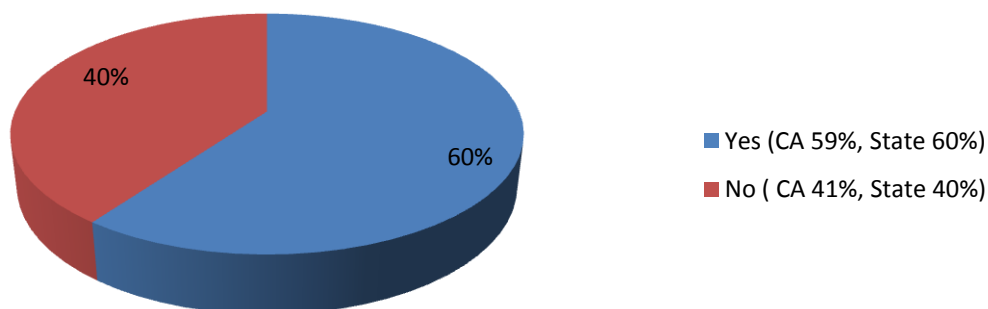
***Do you believe IPL is good for the game?***



### 60% of players believe all-rounders can manage playing three forms of the game

Quality all-rounders are difficult to find and the demands on them are greater than almost any other player. Regardless, the majority of players still believe they are capable of playing all three forms of the game.

***This year, England's Andrew Flintoff and New Zealand's Jacob Oram retired from Tests to focus on the shorter forms of cricket. Do you believe it is realistic for modern all-rounders to play all three forms of the game?***

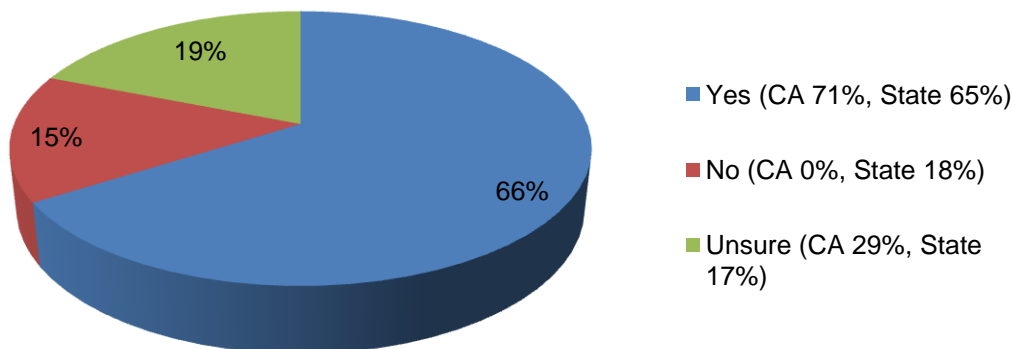


**66% of players would consider retiring from one form of the game and Players are most likely to choose to retire from ODI cricket**

Players are indicating that the demands of constant playing and touring is likely to lead to more players retiring from one form of the game to prolong their career in the other forms.

Should players take this path the most likely form of the game to suffer will be ODI cricket.

***Would you consider retiring from one form of the game to preserve your career in another?***



***If you answered YES above, from which format/s would you be most likely to retire from (multiple answer allowed)?***

	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
Test	42%	44%
ODI	75%	56%
Twenty20	33%	18%

# Playing Conditions

## Current Situation

Concerns regarding falling interest in Test cricket in many countries, combined with the fact that the majority of Test match days are played at times when most people are at work or school, have led administrators to investigate the possibility of playing Day/Night Test matches.

The playing of Day/Night Test matches is now firmly on the agenda of cricket administrators around the world.

Another pressing issue at present is the use of technology in cricket. The current Australia versus West Indies series is utilising the umpire referral system for the first time in Australia.

The Australian team also used it in the away series earlier in 2009 in South Africa, giving players a good feel for whether it is working, and how it can be improved.

The BCCI on behalf of the Indian cricket players recently expressed serious security and privacy reservations about the World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA) whereabouts provisions.

Nominated CA contracted players are also required to adhere to the strict WADA policy of the whereabouts provisions. Whilst currently these have been suspended, it is anticipated that the provisions will resume in one shape or form once the dispute between WADA and the BCCI has been amicably settled.

## Players' View

### 57% of CA Players do not support the introduction of Day / Night Test cricket

Players are marginally less supportive than one year ago when 53% of CA players were not supportive of introducing Day/Night Test cricket.

State players are more supportive with 60% responding that, with the correct ball that behaves similarly to a red ball, they would support Day/Night Tests. This is an increase from 44% one year ago.

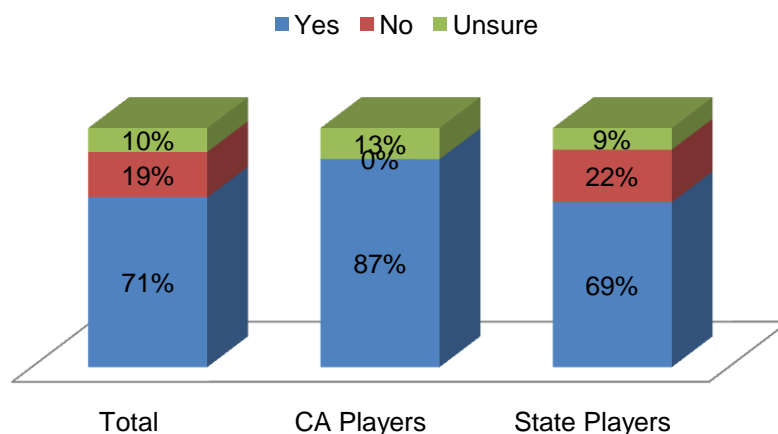
***Authorities are pushing ahead with plans to stage Test cricket under lights, but there are numerous practical considerations. In which of the following circumstances, if any, would you support day-night Tests (multiple answers accepted)?***

	CA PLAYERS		STATE PLAYERS	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
With a brightly coloured ball, even if it has to be replaced after fewer than 80 overs	NA	7%	NA	24%
With a white ball, even if players have to wear coloured clothing instead of whites/creams	NA	0%	NA	11%
Only if a bright-coloured ball that behaves the same way as a traditional red ball can be developed	47%	29%	44%	60%
Only for selected Test matches against minor Test playing nations	NA	21%	NA	19%
Only at selected venues where dew is not a factor	NA	14%	NA	36%
Not under any circumstances	53%	57%	56%	24%

## 87% of CA Players support the introduction of the Umpire Referral System

The Umpire Referral System is viewed as a positive introduction by 71% of our players, including 87% of CA players.

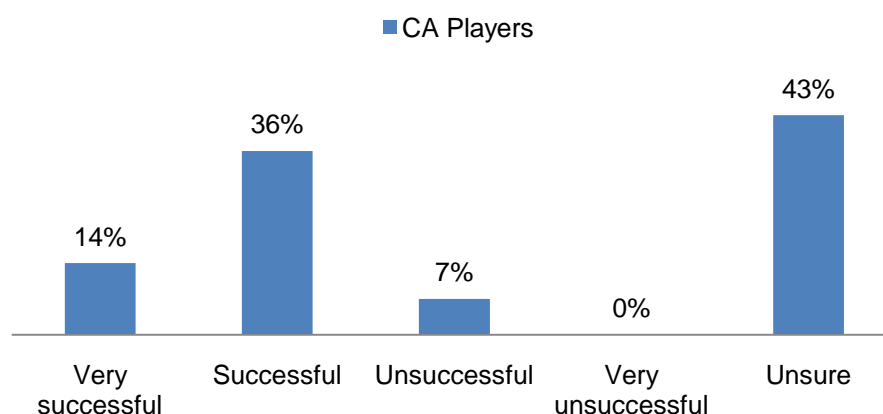
### *Do you support the introduction of the Umpire Referral System?*



## 43% of CA Players are still unsure as to whether the system has been successful or unsuccessful

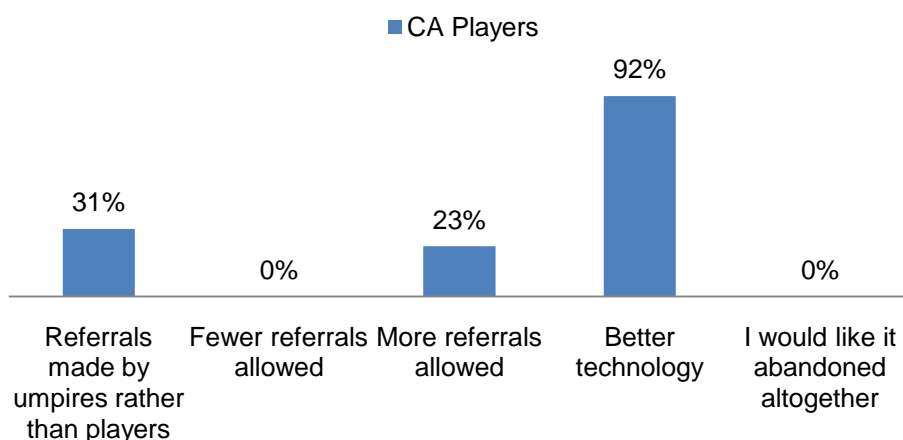
Even though 87% of CA players support the introduction of the Umpire Referral System, 43% are still unsure as to whether it is successful or unsuccessful. 50% of players see it currently as successful or very successful and as such the early signs are positive. This is an issue that will need to be monitored as players are further exposed to the system.

### *(CA Players only) In your opinion, has the system been successful or unsuccessful?*



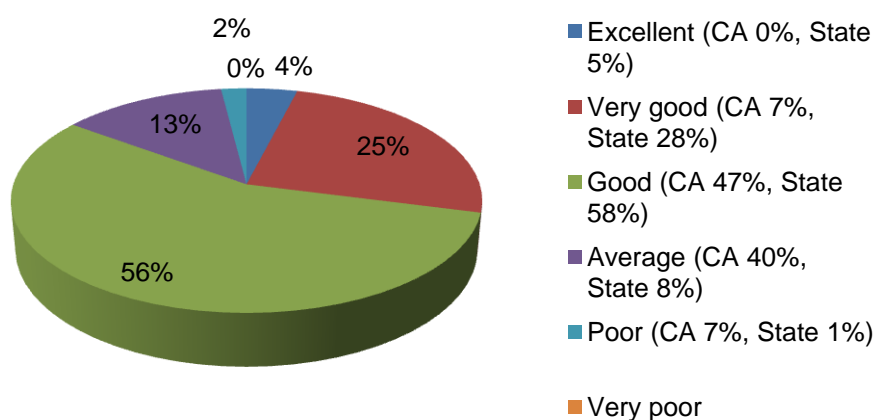
**92% of CA Players would like to see better technology used to improve the Umpire Referral System**

***(CA Players only) How could the referral system be improved (multiple answers allowed)?***



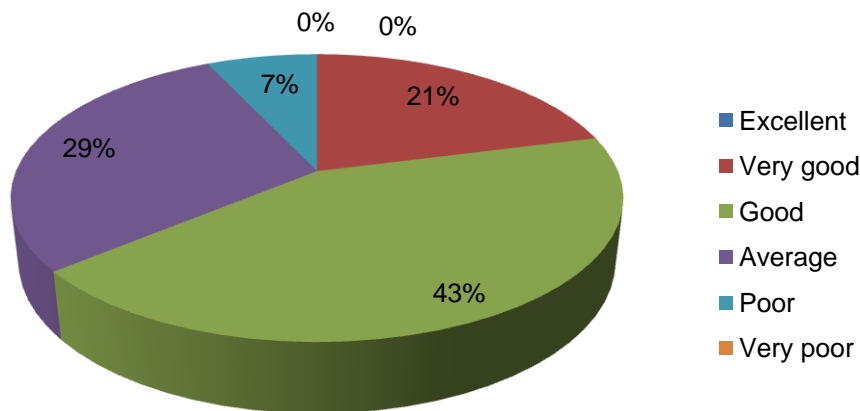
**85% of Players believe the umpiring in domestic cricket is either excellent, very good or good**

***How do you rate the standard of umpiring in Australian domestic cricket?***



**64% of CA Players believe the umpiring in international cricket is either excellent, very good or good**

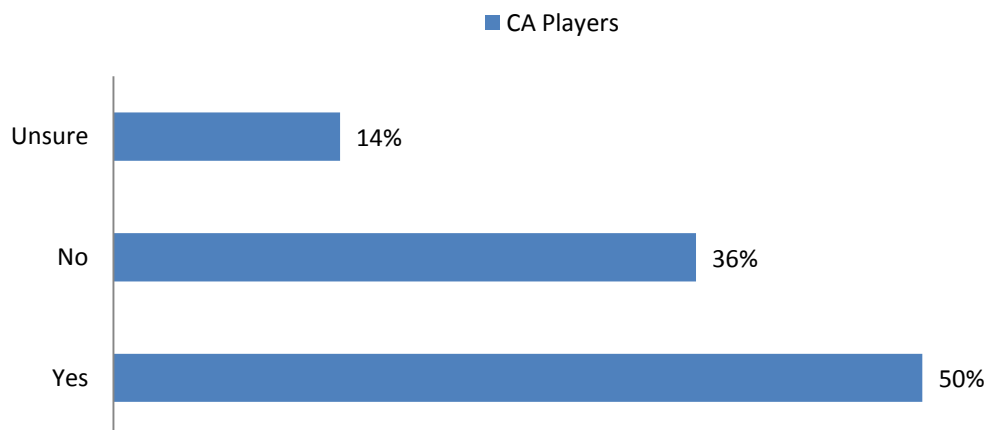
***(CA Players only) How do you rate the standard of umpiring in International cricket?***



**50% of CA Players have concerns about the WADA whereabouts provisions**

Players have concerns about the privacy and inconvenience issues associated with the provision of whereabouts information under the WADA code. Whilst players accept and support the requirements for anti-doping policies in cricket, many believe the whereabouts clause has gone too far, particularly in a low risk sport such as cricket.

***(CA Players only) Does WADA's "whereabouts clause" concern you?***



# Domestic Cricket

## Current Situation

The cricketing landscape is not only changing at an international level. For the first time in 2009, the Champions League T20 event took place and allowed for domestic teams to compete on the world stage.

There are now more opportunities for domestic players than ever before and accordingly players are looking to capitalise on these.

Will Twenty20 and the lure of the IPL and Champions League T20 turn out a generation of Twenty20 players, or will players still need to learn the basics required at Sheffield Shield level to sustain a career in the shorter formats?

Cricket Australia will inevitably continue to look at ways to improve its domestic structure. The capitalisation of the interest in the Twenty20 domestic competition should be seen as a logical expansion option. An important question is how best to fit any expansion into the current structure without some loss of the more traditional formats of the game?

In a response to the recent fortunes of the Australian teams, Cricket Australia has introduced several changes at a domestic level aimed at developing young talent, with perhaps the most contentious being the introduction of the Futures League.

The Futures League replaces the old Second XI competition, and allows for only three players per team to be aged 23 years and over.

## Players' View

### Over 80% of Players view the Sheffield Shield as the most important domestic competition

The Sheffield Shield was clearly voted the most important competition. The KFC Big Bash has overtaken the Ford Ranger Cup as the second most important. The significance of participation in the Champions League T20 could be confidently assumed to be a major factor in this ranking.

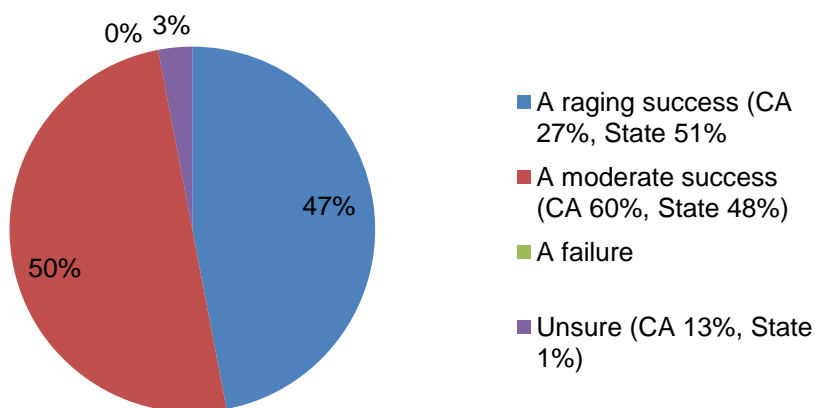
***Rank the Australian competitions in order of importance to you as a player  
(1 = most important)?***

	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
Sheffield Shield	1 (80% of players voted this competition number 1)	1 (85% of players voted this competition number 1)
Ford Ranger Cup	3	3
KFC Big Bash	2	2

## 97% of Players regarded the inaugural Champions League T20 as a success

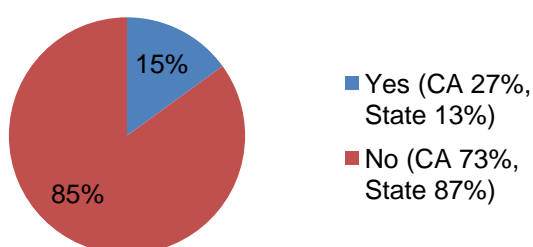
Not one CA or State player saw the Champions League T20 as a failure, with over half of State players describing it a “raging success”.

### *How did you regard the inaugural Champions League T20?*

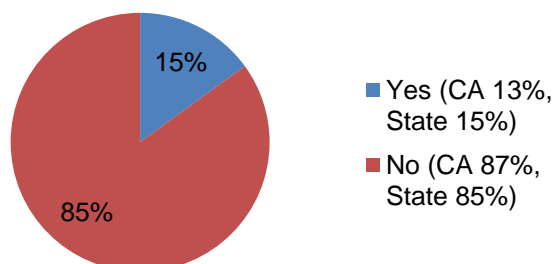


85% of players do not believe the Champions League T20 has taken the focus away from the Australian domestic summer and 85% do not believe that the Champions League T20 is compromising the importance of international cricket.

### *Do you believe the Champions League T20 has taken the focus away from the Australian domestic summer?*



### *Do you believe the Champions League T20 is compromising the importance of International cricket?*





**54% of players want to retain the same number of Sheffield Shield and Ford Ranger Cup games should the Big Bash ever expand**

A further 33% of players would only wish to see Ford Ranger Cup games reduce if something had to give to fit in an extended Big Bash. The retention of the current number of Sheffield Shield games was seen as important by 87% of players.

The players do however want to see the Big Bash competition expanded and as such have indicated a willingness to work with CA to allow this to happen.

***Should any expansion of the Big Bash occur in the future, there may need to be a reduction in the number of games in either the Sheffield Shield or the Ford Ranger Cup. Which of the following statement best fits your view of the direction CA should take on this issue if this arose?***

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
They should try and maintain the same number of SS and FRC games, together with the increased number of BB games	54%	50%	54%
They shouldn't increase the number of BB games, and leave the SS and FRC games at the same level	4%	0%	5%
They should consider only reducing the number of SS games	1%	0%	1%
They should consider only reducing the number of FRC games	33%	43%	31%
They should reduce both the number of SS and FRC games to fit more BB games in	8%	7%	8%

**81% of Players (including 60% aged 23 and under) do not support the introduction of the age restrictions for the Futures League**

***CA has introduced the Futures League in 2009/10, which replaces the former State Second XI competition. In an effort to promote youth, the competition allows for only three players per team to be 23 years or older. Do you think this rule is good for Australian cricket?***



98% of players over the age of 24 did not support the introduction of the age restrictions for the Futures League.

Following is a sample of some of the responses provided by players:

- Players often don't peak until their late "twenties". There are now limited opportunities for these players.
- The best players should be playing at all levels of cricket, regardless of age.
- The Futures League is now of a much lower standard than the old CA Cup due to the younger age of the players, increasing the size of the step up to first class cricket.
- Younger players will not have the opportunity to learn from established professional players in the Second XI competition.

The Futures League also aims to encourage spin bowling by providing bonus points for wickets taken by spinners. Players were also concerned about this rule and one responded with:

- The rules are designed to encourage spinners (no second new ball, bonus points for wickets by spinners), but the length of the game limits the ability of the pitch to break up, the compulsory closure historically at all levels has fostered negative cricket (hence its abandonment at most levels of Grade cricket), and the age restrictions will work against the historical late development of quality spinners.

# Selection

## Current Situation

Selection and selectors have been topical in recent times given the re-building phase Australian cricket is currently going through.

Issues such as the selection of youth and spin bowlers have been the subject of much discussion and as such players have been surveyed on these topics.

Another topical issue has been whether or not the National Selection Panel should include a full-time selector.

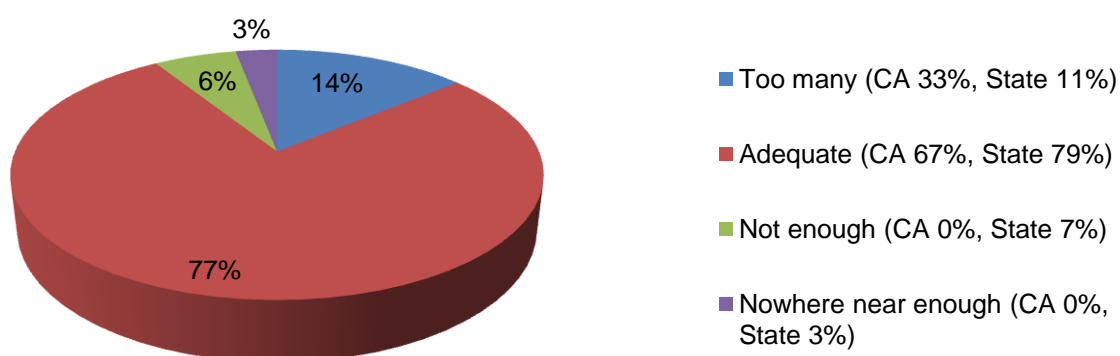
## Players' View

### 87% of Players believe there are enough opportunities presently provided to young cricketers

87% of CA and State players believe there are presently “too many” or “adequate” opportunities for young domestic players in this country.

The players' response indicates that they believe young players will be selected if they are good enough.

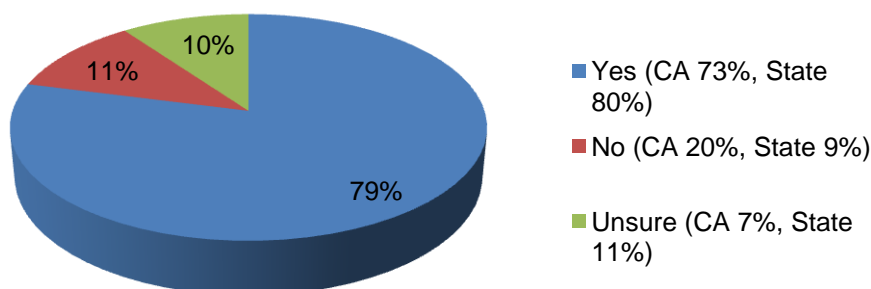
#### *At domestic level, do you believe there are enough opportunities provided for young cricketers?*



## 79% of Players believe that there are enough opportunities being provided to spin bowlers

Only 11% of players (10% unsure) believe further opportunities should be afforded to spin bowlers at domestic level. Similar to the players' response on the selection of young players, the general view is that if they are good enough, spinners will be provided with enough opportunities.

### ***At domestic level, do you believe there are enough opportunities for spinners?***

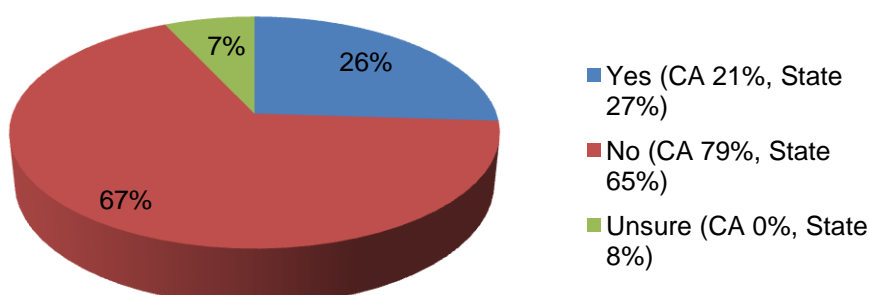


## Only 26% of Players believe each Australian team should contain a spin bowler

A clear majority of 67% of players, including 79% of CA players, do not believe that every Australian team should necessarily contain a spin bowler. According to the majority of players, pitch and venue conditions should dictate the composition of the side.

Just a year ago the percentage of players that did not believe each Australian team should contain a spin bowler was 52%.

### ***Do you believe each Australian team should always contain a spin bowler, regardless of the conditions/venue?***

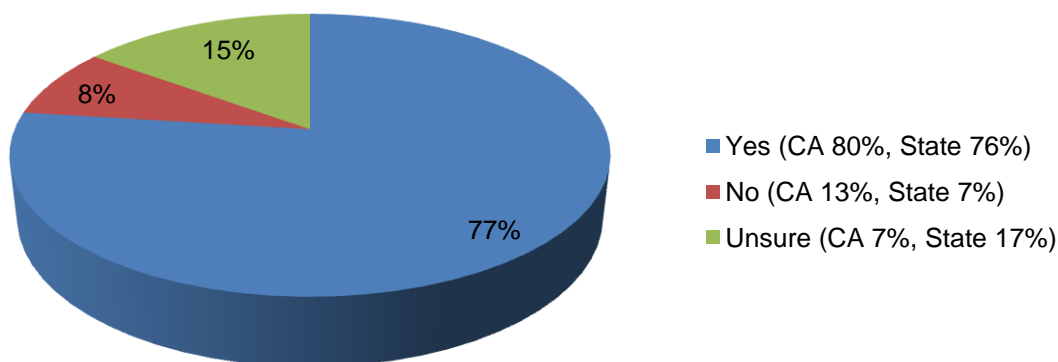


### **77% of Players believe a full-time selector is needed**

On the back of CA considering the appointment of a full-time selector to the National Selection Panel, the issue of the need for this role was asked of players. 80% of CA players, and 77% overall, believed the time was right for a full-time selector, with only 8% disagreeing with the role being full-time.

Given the re-appointment of Chairman of Selectors Andrew Hilditch until after the conclusion of the 2011 World Cup, this issue should continue to be monitored over the coming seasons.

#### ***Do you believe there is a need for a full-time selector on the NSP?***



# Players / Teams / Venues

## Players' View

**South Africa the best opposition Test team**

**India the best opposition ODI team**

**India the best opposition Twenty20 team**

However South Africa is rated by CA players as the best opposition team in all three formats of the game.

### *Which is the best opposition Test team?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
South Africa	63%	87%	59%
India	35%	13%	39%
England	2%	0%	2%

### *Which is the best opposition ODI team?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
India	51%	29%	54%
South Africa	43%	64%	40%
Sri Lanka	5%	7%	5%
Pakistan	1%	0%	1%

### *Which is the best opposition Twenty20 team?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
India	47%	20%	52%
South Africa	21%	33%	19%
Pakistan	17%	27%	15%
Sri Lanka	9%	20%	7%
West Indies	5%	0%	6%
New Zealand	1%	0%	1%

## Graeme Smith is the best opposition captain

### *Who is the world's best opposition captain?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
Graeme Smith (South Africa)	48%	29%	51%
MS Dhoni (India)	24%	36%	22%
Daniel Vettori (New Zealand)	17%	29%	15%
Andrew Strauss (England)	4%	7%	4%
Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)	4%	0%	5%
Younis Khan (Pakistan)	3%	0%	4%

## Dale Steyn is the best opposition fast bowler

### *Who is the world's best opposition fast bowler?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
D. Steyn (South Africa)	57%	86%	53%
A. Flintoff (England)	32%	14%	35%
Z. Khan (India)	4%	0%	5%
S. Bond (New Zealand)	3%	0%	4%
J. Anderson (England)	1%	0%	1%
I. Sharma (India)	1%	0%	1%
U. Gul (Pakistan)	1%	0%	1%

## Sachin Tendulkar is the best opposition batsman

However AB De Villiers is considered easily the best opposition batsman by CA contracted players.

### *Who is the world's best opposition batsman?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
S. Tendulkar (India)	35%	14%	39%
A.B. De Villiers (South Africa)	24%	43%	21%
K. Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)	15%	22%	14%
G. Ghambir (India)	8%	7%	8%
K. Pietersen (England)	5%	0%	6%
J. Kallis (South Africa)	4%	14%	2%
S. Chanderpaul (West Indies)	3%	0%	4%
G. Smith (South Africa)	2%	0%	2%
Other	4%	0%	4%

**Muttiah Muralidaran is the best opposition spin bowler**

*Who is the world's best spin bowler?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
M. Muralidaran (Sri Lanka)	56%	57%	55%
D. Vettori (New Zealand)	19%	14%	20%
B. Mendis (Sri Lanka)	13%	14%	13%
H. Singh (India)	8%	7%	8%
S. Ajmal (Pakistan)	2%	7%	1%
S. Afridi (Pakistan)	1%	0%	1%
A. Mishra (India)	1%	0%	1%

**Dirk Nannes and Brett Lee are the equal quickest in Australia**

*Who is the fastest bowler currently playing first-class cricket in Australia?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
Dirk Nannes	29%	33%	28%
Brett Lee	29%	40%	27%
Shaun Tait	19%	0%	22%
Mitchell Johnson	14%	20%	13%
Peter Siddle	6%	0%	7%
Other	3%	7%	3%

**Phil Hughes and Peter Siddle are our best young batsman and fast bowler**

*Who is the most promising batsman aged under 25 in Australia?*

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
P. Hughes (New South Wales)	54%	50%	55%
C. Ferguson (South Australia)	27%	29%	27%
T. Paine (Tasmania)	6%	0%	7%
N. Reardon (Queensland)	5%	0%	5%
J. Smith (South Australia)	3%	0%	3%
D. Warner (New South Wales)	1%	7%	0%
Other	4%	14%	3%



***Who is the most promising fast bowler aged under 25 in Australia?***

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
P. Siddle (Victoria)	61%	79%	59%
J. Pattinson (Victoria)	8%	14%	7%
S. Walter (Queensland)	7%	0%	8%
B. Cutting (Queensland)	6%	0%	7%
J. Hazlewood (New South Wales)	6%	0%	7%
B. Cockley (New South Wales)	5%	0%	6%
P. George (South Australia)	3%	7%	2%
Other	4%	0%	4%

**Graham Manou is our best reserve gloveman**

***Excluding Brad Haddin, who is the best wicket-keeper in Australia?***

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
G. Manou (South Australia)	36%	51%	33%
T. Paine (Tasmania)	34%	21%	36%
L. Ronchi (Western Australia)	12%	14%	12%
C. Hartley (Queensland)	11%	0%	13%
M. Wade (Victoria)	5%	7%	5%
D. Smith (New South Wales)	2%	7%	1%

**Shane Warne is the players' favourite commentator**

***Who is your favourite cricket television commentator?***

	TOTAL CA & STATE	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
Shane Warne	39%	50%	38%
Damien Fleming	23%	7%	26%
Richie Benaud	14%	14%	13%
Bill Lawry	5%	14%	3%
Ian Healy	4%	0%	5%
Mark Nicholas	4%	7%	4%
Mark Waugh	2%	0%	2%
Other	9%	8%	9%

The MCG is still the players' favourite ground, but the GABBA provides the best wickets

***What is your favourite ground in Australia?***

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
MCG	24%	29%	22%
SCG	22%	14%	24%
GABBA	21%	7%	24%
WACA	9%	14%	8%
Adelaide Oval	21%	29%	20%
Bellerive Oval	3%	7%	2%

***What is the best Test Match wicket in Australia?***

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
MCG	7%	7%	7%
SCG	10%	7%	11%
GABBA	58%	64%	58%
WACA	7%	0%	8%
Adelaide Oval	19%	14%	16%
Bellerive Oval	3%	7%	0%

***What is the best ODI / Ford Ranger Cup / Twenty20 cricket wicket in Australia?***

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
MCG	9%	7%	9%
SCG	5%	21%	2%
GABBA	52%	36%	54%
WACA	12%	0%	14%
Adelaide Oval	19%	29%	18%
Bellerive Oval	3%	7%	2%

***What is the best Sheffield Shield cricket wicket in Australia?***

	TOTAL	CA PLAYERS	STATE PLAYERS
MCG	11%	21%	9%
SCG	12%	14%	12%
GABBA	36%	7%	40%
WACA	8%	0%	9%
Adelaide Oval	28%	50%	25%
Bellerive Oval	5%	7%	5%

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## 43% of Players believe our wickets are becoming too similar for Test matches

Just 34% of players believe our wickets are not becoming too similar for Test matches.

### *Are the conditions of the wickets around Australia becoming too similar for Test matches?*

