

# **JUNIOR SELECTION & PARTICIPATION POLICY**

## **PRINCIPLES**

This document states the official Clifton Hill Cricket Club Junior selection and participation policy as endorsed by the club from the beginning of season 2013-2014.

All players and parents/guardians agree that they are bound by the policy once the player is registered for the season.

Junior cricket from ages Under 10 to Under 16 aims to foster players' development in competitive cricket to open-age competition. This policy assists in promoting skills and maturity in young players, consistent with the age-based rules of the Eastern Cricket Association.

The policy recognises that the goals and aspirations of players will in most cases change as they move through the age groups. It also recognises that not all players within an age group will have the same goals and aspirations.

The policy is intended to promote the development of skills, attitudes and behaviors required by well-rounded, maturing cricketers.

A team ethos is strongly encouraged and promoted, with an emphasis on players working together towards the goals and the benefits of the side and celebrating each others' successes.

The club is a strong supporter of Cricket Australia's 'Spirit of the Game' principles and the ECA Codes of Behavior. Emphasis is placed on safety and showing respect towards teammates, club officials, umpires and opponents. Serious code of conduct breaches will be referred to the Junior Sub Committee.

Parents will be required to sign up to a separate code of conduct.

## **PARTICIPATION CRITERIA**

Club fees must be paid in full before a player will be considered for selection unless prior arrangements have been made with the Junior Coordinator.

### **1. Under 10**

The primary goal is to develop individual and team skills in all players by adopting full player rotations in every game

- \* All players bowl the same number of overs in each game where possible
- \* All players bat the same number of overs in each game where possible unless dismissed
- \* All players shall have the opportunity to keep wicket during the season
- \* Captaincy is rotated each week and all players will have the opportunity to be captain during the season. Prior to the commencement of the match, the responsibility of the Captain is to toss the coin and, upon winning the toss, choose whether the team will bat or bowl first. At the end of the match, the captain leads the cheers for the opposing side.

It is recognised that circumstances may not permit equal bowling and batting opportunities in each game. Where this is not achieved, all attempts will be made to restore the balance in following games. Under no circumstances should the participation rules be departed from solely for the purposes of winning a game.

## **2. Under 12**

The primary goal is to continue to develop individual and team skills in all players by adopting full player participation in every game:

- \* Every player is to be offered the opportunity to bat in a variety of positions in the batting order during the season.
- \* Unless dismissed, batters are to retire after:
  - 8 overs in a 2 day game, although the Coach will have the discretion to retire a player before then in order to give those who have had limited opportunities in previous games a bat.
  - 4 overs in a 1 day game
- \* As far as possible, every player, except the wicketkeeper, is to bowl the same number of overs.
- \* All players have the opportunity to keep wicket during the season
- \* Captaincy is rotated each week and all players will have the opportunity to be captain during the season. Prior to the commencement of the match, the responsibility of the Captain is to toss the coin and, upon winning the toss, choose whether the team will bat or bowl first. At the end of the match, the captain leads the cheers for the opposing side.

## **3. Under 14**

The primary goal is to further develop players' individual and team skills and to ensure full player participation over the season:

- \* Every player is to have the opportunity to bat in a variety of positions in the batting order
- \* Every player has the opportunity to open the bowling
- \* However, it is recognised that some players will want to specifically develop as batters, bowlers or wicketkeepers, and where this opportunity is provided, this may come at the expense of opportunities in other areas.
- \* Batters bat until dismissed, or reach the ECA specified number of runs for retirement, although the Coach will have the discretion to retire a player in order to give those who have had limited opportunities a bat.
- \* Individual players have the opportunity to field in specific/specialist positions
- \* Captains and Vice-Captains are elected by the coach at the start of the season. Prior to the commencement of the match, the responsibility of the Captain is to toss the coin and, upon winning the toss, choose whether the team will bat or bowl first. At the end of the match, the captain leads the cheers for the opposing side. The Captain is to set the field in consultation with the coach, and can also have input into bowling changes.
- \* In the higher grades (U14A and to a lesser extent U14B) it is desirable that players (particularly top age under 14s) begin to specialise in batting, bowling and fielding positions, as this will be more of an emphasis at the U16 level.

#### **4. Under 16**

The primary goal is to prepare players for a successful transition to senior cricket:

- \* Every player will bat and bowl throughout the season
- \* It is expected that players will increasingly develop specialised skills and this will be reflected in more stable batting and bowling orders, and fielding positions.
- \* Batters bat until dismissed, or reach the ECA specified number of runs for retirement
- \* Players have different skills and will be played to best develop these skills
- \* Captains and Vice-Captains are elected by the coach at the start of the season. Prior to the commencement of the match, the responsibility of the Captain is to toss the coin and, upon winning the toss, choose whether the team will bat or bowl first. At the end of the match, the captain leads the cheers for the opposing side. The Captain chooses the batting and bowling orders in consultation with the Vice Captain and the Coach.

### **TEAM SELECTION/ALLOCATION**

It is expected that players will play within their applicable age groups. Only in exceptional circumstances will players be permitted to play in an older age group than the one applying to them, with the permission of the junior sub-committee. Permission is highly unlikely to be granted if the older age group has an excess of players, or the applicable age group has a shortage of players.

#### **Under 10s and 12s**

- \* Where the club fields more than one team within an age group, the guiding principle for team allocation will be the maintenance of friendship groups, recognising that it is not always achievable for every player.\* Teams at U10 level will be capped at 15, after which new registrations will be placed on a waiting list until there are sufficient players for a second side.
- \* Teams at U12 level will be capped at 14 on the same basis.
- \* Ideally, each team should have a minimum of 12 players, but it will be the club's discretion whether a second (or third) team is entered.
- \* There should be no assumption that teams will remain the same from one season to the next.

#### **Under 14s**

- \* Teams will be capped at 14, after which registrations will be placed on a waiting list until there are sufficient players for a second side (or at 26 until there are sufficient players for a third side).
- \* Where the club fields more than one team at this level, team allocation will be based on a combination of factors, including age, development and player preferences.

#### **Under 16s**

\* Teams will be capped at 13, after which registrations will be placed in a waiting list until there are sufficient players for a second side (or at 26 until there are sufficient players for a third side).

\* Where the club fields more than one team at this level, team allocation will be based principally on development and ability, although if players wish to play in a lower grade this will be accommodated where possible.

## **FINALS**

\* Finals are usually held in early March, and the semi-finals often coincide with the Labour Day long weekend. In registering to play for the club, it is expected that all players will be available for all finals, in the absence of exceptional circumstances.

\* Players who are unavailable for the semi-final other than through injury or other unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances will generally be ranked, for grand final selection, behind those who played in the semi-final, if there are more than the requisite players available.

\* All other things being equal, selection for finals will be based on a combination of training attendance and performance, on-field performance including effort and attitude, team balance, and adherence to the principles set out at the start of this policy and Cricket Australia's "Spirit of the Game" principles.

\* Within the above parameters, the aim is to field the strongest and best balanced side possible.

\* Team coaches are encouraged to consult with the club's junior coaching panel on selection for finals.

NB. Finals are held in all U16 and U14 grades, and in U12A.

## **CONCERNS/COMPLAINTS**

Any selection issues should be addressed to the Junior Coordinator [check title] in the first instance

Any selection issues will be referred to the Junior Selection Committee.

The Junior Selection Committee comprises three (3) officials:

1. Junior team coach
2. Junior Coordinator
3. Junior Coach