



## North Canberra Gungahlin Cricket Club: Junior Selection Policy 2014/2015

The aim of the junior club selection policy is to ensure that teams are selected on a fair, consistent and equitable basis providing the opportunity for players to develop their cricket skills in an enjoyable and friendly environment.

The ACT Cricket junior structure for the Under 11 Age group and above is for clubs to form teams on the basis of grading and comparative ability. This is based on the best or most appropriate XI players being selected in highest division a club will compete in for each age group. Each club in the competition does this to ensure competitive matches each week between the various clubs.

In carrying out this task it is hoped that NCGCC is recognised as a volunteer organisation that cannot operate without significant understanding and assistance from the parents and players. It is not possible for every player to be allocated to their team preference although the club is committed to doing the best it can to accommodate each individual's preferences.

The Junior club will convene a Selection Panel for the task which will include representatives from the senior club and independent members from the Committee and coaches.

### Players

Starting with the under 11 age group, at the start of each season the club grades players according to their skill level and then places players into teams of players with similar levels of ability.

Particularly, in the younger age groups consideration is given to the longer-term development potential of a player not just ball performance at the current time. For instance a bottom hand dominant batter that swings across the line may dominate in Under 10s but this usually doesn't translate to runs in higher older divisions.

It is important children do not feel undue pressure to make a Division 1 team. The grading process occurs each season, and there is often movement between teams over the season as children develop at different rates. In past seasons, players that have been outside Division 1 in their younger career have made the older representative teams. Astute cricket coaches state that it is not till a child is 14 years is it crucial for them to competing against the best if they wish to go onto a high level of cricket. The art of batting and bowling in cricket is most players in very much in the developmental stage until their teenage years.

#### Administration of Trials

Grading trials will be held at the beginning of each season [September] starting with the under 11 age group, generally 6 weeks before the commencement of the season.

These trials are the major selection exercise for divisions one, two and three teams for the upcoming season. The exception is the under 11 age group where only a single Division One team is graded. There is no Division 2 and 3 in this age group. The non-graded under 11 teams are formed using other criteria.

No player will be allowed to trial unless they are correctly registered with the club. Players who don't wish to be considered for Division 1 and Division 2 need not attend the grading trials.

Players that cannot make the grading trials for a valid reason and still want to be considered for the higher Division teams should notify the Secretary. There is no guarantees in this regard. In exceptional circumstances if many players can't attend another trial may be scheduled.

The date and time for the trial are fixed by the Committee and notified by the Secretary.

#### Team Lists

The Selection Panel will develop a list of players for teams based upon the observations at

### Requests to Play in a Higher Age Group

Players will generally require to trial in their own age group. Playing up an age group is not normally permitted. However, in some cases the Club Committee, in conjunction with the parents may approve a player play up an age group.

Such approval might be granted where:

- a) The Committee believes it is in the player's best interests because of ability and/or physical maturity;
- b) There is an absence of a first division team in the player's own age group
- c) There are vacancies in higher age groups, but none in the player's own age group and the parents and the player agree to the placement to balance team numbers.
- d) Special circumstances for a player to play in a higher age group. Such cases will be judged solely on their own merits by the Committee

### Expectations of Division 1 Players and Coaches

There is a different emphasis on Division 1 Players and Coaches as outlined in Cricket ACT's Junior rules.

## **27. DIVISION 1 GUIDELINES**

### **27.1 What is Division 1 cricket?**

Division 1 in each Age Group is the highest skill grade and requires greater interest and commitment by players—players aspiring to Junior Representative cricket are usually selected from this Division. Accordingly, the Junior Council has a responsibility to provide a level of competition which will test the skills of the better players in the Junior Competition so that proper transition to first class cricket is achieved.

### **27.2 What is Expected of Coaches?**

Coaches need to recognise the new era cricket in the ACT has entered and the new responsibilities and challenges they face. Junior Council policy is that, as a minimum, Division 1 coaches have current Level 1 accreditation. Coaches are expected to play their part in helping our young players realise their aspirations and equipping them with the training and skills necessary to

## **28. GUIDE TO PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

### **28.1 Under 11–12**

While the main emphasis is on developing fundamental skills, players should be given a 'fair' chance to bat at different levels in the batting order and to develop their bowling skills. In the second half of the season, the process of player specialisation should begin—coaches should seek to develop a top and middle batting order; develop a bowling order and look at encouraging wicket-keepers/captaincy etc. There should be no wholesale rotation of players (e.g. moving a batter from No 10 one week to No 1 the next week) but coaches should consider rotating players within an order to give players an opportunity to develop and test their skills.

### **28.2 Under 13–14**

It is important that players who are developing batting, bowling and other skills are given appropriate opportunities to display those skills. As in Under 12s there should be no wholesale rotation of players and players should not be retired simply to give every player a bat in each match. However, there is a need to ensure that coaches do not use individual players in such a way that they unduly dominate in every match. For example, if a player were to achieve the maximum allowable runs in two matches in succession in such a manner as to diminish the opportunities available to other players, coaches may consider rotating the batting within the relevant order for the next match.

### **Coaches input in the end of season player evaluation**

Team/player Evaluation Sheet - at the end of the each season, each coach from the under 10 to the under 13 age groups is asked to complete team evaluation sheet. These sheets are used by the Director of Coaching and the Selection Panel when considering the current season's players. A copy of the sheet is at the end of this document.

The evaluation sheet asks a series of questions concerning the players in the team and ask the coach to provide a mark out of five in the following categories:

- Batting
- Bowling;
- Fielding;

The rating scale will be as follows (note that most players should end up with 2s or 3s):

- 1 = Developing
- 2 = Improving
- 3 = Competitive
- 4 = Above average achievement

## PLAYER EVALUATION

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