

WEST CHILTINGTON AND THAKEHAM CC JUNIOR SELECTION and GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY

Dear Parents,

As we prepare to enter another season we thought it would be useful to briefly remind parents and players of the objectives and the principles contained within our **Junior selection and Game management policy**.

Overview

Each age group, from U9 upwards, will play competitive matches and for those matches, teams need to be selected.

Team selection can sometimes be an area of contention between parents, coaches and players so the Club has outlined some principles around which age group's selection policy will be based.

It is a vital that parents, as members of the club, understand and are supportive of the selection policy used.

Team Selection and Game Management

There are two primary guidelines to which all age groups will adhere.

- i) Teams will be selected from within their "**own age**" group. (unless exceptional or unforeseen circumstances prevail)
- ii) Managers and coaches will attempt to "**mix and rotate**" the batting and bowling order to ensure every player enjoys an active part in the games.

How age group teams are chosen and managed is ultimately the decision of the age-group managers/coaches but the following elements will be common throughout the process.

Ability

Cricket is a competitive sport and the Club has a responsibility to encourage and then develop all players to their full potential.

This means that some age groups may operate squads streamed on ability.

This will help ensure that the coaching is delivered at a level most appropriate to a player's ability. Ability is an important consideration, particularly for older age groups but it is not the only factor.

Motivation, commitment, and attitude

Players who try hard at training and in matches serve as valuable example to their teams.

Player commitment may also be used as a criterion in match selection.

Attendance

Players need to attend training sessions as well as matches. Players who turn up week in, week out for training will, to some extent, be given precedence over those who don't.

The extent to which attendance is used as the basis for selection is decided by the managers and coaches.

Parents are encouraged to speak to the managers/coaches if regular attendance is a problem e.g. school commitments

Behaviour

To be selected to represent the Club is a privilege and not a right. As such it needs to be earned. Bad behaviour or poor attitude by players will not be tolerated and the manager/coach has the discretion to use team selection as a sanction against bad behaviour if he or she sees fit.

Standard of opposition teams

It is not in the interests of any Club or team to be on either side of a gross mismatch.

A manager/coach will base their selection and game management on experience and the desire to ensure a competitive outcome.

JUNIOR CRICKET IN 2018

In 2018, junior teams will compete in two separate competitions, i) Sussex Junior Leagues and ii) Sussex Junior Cricket Festival (SJCF).

Junior Leagues

Objectives

The focus in league matches is to give all squad members' access to competitive cricket, with the emphasis on participation.

Selection

Teams should always be selected from "own age" group, no younger player should play up unless the team is short of numbers.

Managers and coaches will attempt to **mix and rotate** the batting and bowling order to ensure every player enjoys an active part in the games.

SJCF

The SJCF holds two competitions, the **Bowl** and the **Shield**.

The duration of each game is determined by age group but for the older age groups can be up to 90 overs (45 per innings)

a) **The Bowl**.... Teams tend to come from the stronger clubs, often with county age group players within their squads. It is recognised that the cricket played in the Bowl competition is generally of a higher standard.

b) **The Shield**.... Provides good competitive cricket for those who have chosen not to enter the Bowl.

Both produce good quality and competitive cricket.

Bowl or Shield?

After guidance from age group managers and coaches the Club will, unless otherwise advised, enter teams in either the Bowl or the Shield depending on the relative strength of the squad.

Objectives.

Whether Bowl or Shield, it is the intention of the Club to field the strongest/most competitive and balanced team available with the intention of winning.

However, managers will attempt to ensure that all players are involved in some part of the games and not bowl or bat at 10/11.

Selection

Selection for the SJCF will be from the age group only.

No player from "out of age" group will be selected ahead of an available "within age" group player.

The only exception would be if, in the opinion of the coach/manager, there is a health/safety issue e.g. wicket keeping

U19s

The club is entering the ECB T20 U19 league for the first time.

Selection will be across all age groups irrespective of age.

The emphasis will be on selecting the strongest team possible.

Playing for the senior teams

Perhaps the key driver for the development of our junior section has been to provide a clear pathway for all junior members, allowing them to progress through their age groups and into the senior teams. Currently over 80% of the senior teams are made up from players who have come up through the junior ranks.

Not only is the development of junior players crucial for the future wellbeing and success of the club, it is also fundamental to the club's ethos of providing access to cricket for all those who wish to play the game.

We are keen to ensure that parents and junior players understand that our selection and game management policies embrace the hope that our young cricketers will not only continue playing and enjoying the game of cricket for many years to come, but will wish to do it at the club they grew up at.