



West Chiltington & Thakeham Cricket Club (WCTCC)

Junior Selection and Game Management Policy 2025

Introduction

This policy outlines the principles and practices for team selection and game management across WCTCC junior cricket teams. It serves as a guideline for coaches, managers, parents, and players to ensure fair, inclusive, and competitive participation while upholding the Club's values and fostering a love for cricket.

1. Guiding Principles

1.1 Spirit of Cricket

The Spirit of Cricket forms the foundation of our Club's ethos. It emphasizes respect for the game, opponents, and officials, while promoting teamwork and fair play. Players are encouraged to embrace the emotional highs and lows of the game, guided by parental and coaching support.

1.2 Objectives

- Provide **all** players with opportunities to participate, develop, and enjoy the game.
 - Instil qualities of leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship.
 - Foster an environment where winning is valued but secondary to learning and participation.
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2. Team Selection and Game Management

2.1 General Guidelines

1. Teams will be selected primarily from their respective age groups, with exceptions for exceptional or unforeseen circumstances.
2. Coaches will endeavour to mix and rotate batting and bowling orders to ensure all players are actively involved in games.

3. For age groups U9–U13, captaincy opportunities will be rotated to develop leadership skills.

2.2 Selection Criteria

Selection decisions are made based on the following factors:

- **Commitment and Attitude:** Players who display effort and enthusiasm during training and matches are prioritized.
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance at training sessions is rewarded, but accommodations are made for players with valid reasons for absences (e.g., school commitments).
- **Behaviour:** Representing the Club is a privilege. Poor behaviour, including bullying or unsportsmanlike conduct, will result in disciplinary action, which may include exclusion from matches.

2.3 Competitive Balance

Coaches will strive to maintain competitive matchups while avoiding extreme mismatches that may undermine player confidence or enjoyment.

3. Competition Overview

3.1 Sussex Junior Leagues

Objective: Encourage broad participation with an emphasis on involvement over results.

- Teams are selected from their own age group.
- Batting and bowling opportunities are rotated to provide equal chances for all players.

3.2 Sussex Junior Cricket Festival (SJCF)

The SJCF features two tiers:

- **The Bowl:** For highly competitive teams often featuring county-level players.
- **The Shield:** For clubs seeking good-quality, balanced matches.

Objective: Field the strongest available teams while ensuring all players actively participate.

- Selection prioritizes ability and competitiveness.
- Players from other age groups or clubs may be included under exceptional circumstances, with prior Club approval.

3.3 ECB T20 Knockout Cup

Objective: Compete at the highest level with the strongest possible teams, selected across eligible age groups (U13, U15 boys and girls).

- Team selection and management are overseen by professional coaches in consultation with junior team volunteers.
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4. Pathway to Senior Teams

The Club is committed to providing a clear pathway for junior players to transition into senior teams, ensuring their continued development and enjoyment of cricket.

- Juniors aged 13 and above may be considered for senior teams, provided it is deemed safe.
- Pathway players (with prior league consent) may participate from age 12.

A significant portion of WCTCC's senior players are homegrown talent, reflecting the Club's dedication to nurturing its juniors. The aim is to instil a lifelong passion for cricket, encouraging players to remain part of the Club, regardless of their level.

5. Conclusion

WCTCC's Junior Selection and Game Management Policy is designed to balance competition, player development, and inclusivity. By fostering a supportive environment grounded in the Spirit of Cricket, the Club aims to nurture young players who enjoy the game, develop their skills, and carry forward the values of WCTCC both on and off the field.