



LEAMINGTON CRICKET CLUB

Information for parents:- Selection and Matches

OUR APPROACH TO SELECTION

We will try to select an appropriately competitive and balanced team where possible, but we will also balance that with giving boys and girls throughout the age group match exposure. We can not always guarantee everybody that attends our summer coaching will play in competitive matches.

- Your Age Group Manager (AGM) is working hard to ensure that when games are being played that everyone - including the opposition - gets a good game and are tested appropriately. We want as many players as possible to get a good amount of match exposure at the right level. Please trust and help your AGM to manage this process.
- There are lots of different types of matches - League matches, Cup matches and Friendlies. Some matches are in a Development League, which will feature a larger number of less experienced players. There are also friendlies, where the standard will vary. In the premier league (U13 & U15), these games are competitive where relegation is an issue. In the premier leagues therefore selection will be based on fielding the strongest team available.
- Your AGM will try to ensure that less able players are not exposed at an inappropriate level. Child safety is paramount and playing at a level above a child's ability can be dangerous. However, they will attempt to push your child's learning by getting them to play at a level that challenges them.

Please respect the AGM, because it is not an easy job and they are volunteers who are doing their best by the children playing in the team. It is vital that parents understand and are supportive of the selection policy used. Any concerns with selection should be raised in the first instance with the Team manager, please speak to them respectfully so you can work together to come to a resolution which benefits the cricket development of your child.

Social Media **should not** be used for airing complaints or issues, please communicate face to face, by phone or text/email with the relevant manager. More serious issues should be reported directly to Mark Davison (Head of Youth Cricket) or The Club Safeguarding Officers (Clare Davison or Penny Hawkins).

It is the aim and the purpose of the Club to encourage junior players of all ages to participate in and play recreational and competitive cricket. Our coaching is based on the view that each player should be developed to his / her maximum potential.

Motivation, commitment and behaviour

We expect all our junior players to be motivated and committed to playing cricket and display appropriate behaviour when attending training and playing matches. This includes respecting coaches, Team Managers and other players either on their team or opposing teams.

To be selected to represent the Club is a privilege not a right. As such it needs to be earned. Bad behaviour by players will not be tolerated and management has the discretion to use selection as a sanction against bad behaviour.

BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MATCHES

Matches are a fantastic experience, both for the children themselves and for their parents (and other relatives!). Your children will undoubtedly want to share what happened and discuss events in the match with you. It is a fantastic opportunity for a shared family experience and learning for your child. Please therefore make every effort to attend the match yourself and to stay around to support your child and the other adults running the match.

Leamington Cricket Club appreciates that everyone has busy lives, but if you are able to stay and support then this is strongly encouraged.

BEFORE THE MATCH

- Please be clear about availability and respond to availability invitations from your AGM quickly
- Please make every effort to meet on time
- Please help the AGM set up the match
- Please ensure your child is there in time to warm up with their team-mates

DURING THE MATCH

- Encourage your child to watch the game they are playing so they support the team and understand the situation they will be batting/bowling in
- Do volunteer to score (it's not that hard!) or lend the AGM a hand - this may simply mean encouraging the kids to watch.

AFTER THE MATCH

- Please help clear the equipment away
- Please do stay, socialise, have a drink, let the children play some more in an unstructured and free-way. It's a great way for players and parents to develop new friendships
- Please stay until the end of the game. Even if your child has finished their direct involvement in the game, please stay and support your team

THE VALUE OF TRAINING

Cricket can be a technically difficult game. It is important to develop skills to ensure that the players are improving and able to perform the way they want to when they are 13-15 years old and to then install good habits in learning and technical efficiency to help players express themselves and to be able to excel in adult/older age teams too.

Also due to the nature of cricket, batters may only face 10-15 balls in a game, and only bowl 12 balls in a 2-3 hour game. Compared to a 2 hour training session where in a batting drill they may play in

excess of 70 balls (in a net they only get to face approx. 25-30 balls every 10 mins) and they would get to bowl 30 to 40 deliveries with a focus and learning objective.

Although children understandably want to play games, please encourage them to train and develop their skills.