



ECC JUNIOR TEAM INCLUSION & SELECTION POLICY

Inclusion Policy

The U10 competition within the Eastern Cricket Association (ECA) has equality and rotation of batting and bowling built in to the competition rules, as it is a development competition with modified rules.

Edinburgh Cricket Club (ECC) has long wished to see all its junior players given equal opportunity to participate with both bat and ball. With the growth in junior numbers there are now multiple teams at each age level and the club finds itself needing to field teams in A grade competitions within the ECA. Fielding teams at this level helps to challenge more advanced players and provide more opportunities for our juniors to participate in representative and pathways programs. For this reason different guidelines will be applied to the highest graded team in each of the U12, U14 and U16 boy's age levels (referred to as an "A" team here even if the ECA competition they play in is a B grade competition). For A grade teams the emphasis will be more competitive and these teams will be filled by a selection process. All other teams will be selected to accommodate friendship groups as much as possible.

For U12 and U14 competitions played at the B and C grade levels the following guidelines apply:

Batting: positions to be rotated each match and all players to be given the chance to bat for a similar amount of overs (providing they are not dismissed).

Bowling: Each player to bowl a similar number of overs - order to be rotated. Spells of three overs each is the norm in a two day game. Leaving spare overs at the end to be allocated in a fair manner.

Wicket keeping: to be rotated through players who wish to wicket keep.

Captaincy: Will be rotated round by round.

The above guidelines come with the proviso that players will never be forced to play in a role that they do not wish to (e.g. many players do not wish to take a turn to bat high in the order, occasionally in a particular match a player may feel reluctant to bowl for some reason, some do not wish to wicket keep)

In practice however, although the above guidelines will be employed in every game, the nature of the activity means that they often can fall short in any one game. If there is an impediment to equal participation in a particular game, then every endeavor should be made to rectify this over the following weeks. Some common scenarios for an unequal participation are:

Bowling: the other team collapses and is out in 20 overs so the team is only halfway through the bowling order or rain stops play before all have bowled etc

Batting: if there are more than 11 players in the team, then players who have batted their share of overs are required to 'retire not out' in order to give everyone a bat. If our team suffers a batting collapse and loses 10 quick wickets then the innings can unexpectedly be at an end before everyone has a chance to bat.

There are of course other situations that can have the same effect In general, the club's preferred



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method to rectify an unequal situation is to give players who miss out one week on batting or bowling, preferential treatment the following week. If batting, this comprises allowing those players to choose where they would like to bat in the batting order. If bowling, letting them choose where they would like to bowl in the bowling order and also allocating them first go the next time there are spare overs when everybody has bowled their allocated overs.

If you or your child feels that they are not getting a fair go, please approach your coach or the junior coordinator and discuss the matter.

Guidelines at U12A, U14A and U16A level:

- The degree to which a player is included in the batting and bowling can reflect commitment to the team and to training.
- There may be a preferred wicketkeeper
- Bowling and batting orders may be more settled.
- Some players may specialize, being selected primarily as batters or bowlers.
- Emphasis on the end result – i.e. winning.

Selection Policy

The club aims to field junior teams of appropriate numbers - capped at 15 players (12 for A grade teams). The club has a firm commitment to giving primary consideration to the following criteria for U10, U12B/C, U14B/C and U16C teams:

- To maintain stable teams as much as possible moving through the age groups
- To accommodate friends who wish to play together in the same team as far as possible.
- To provide a more competition focused environment for more developed players.

Placing players into teams in junior sport can be a complicated process and never an exact science. It cannot be planned ahead to any great extent as numbers are never known until registration is completed. While the club aims to satisfy all players and parents, it is not always possible to achieve this and we urge people to remember that players join a club not a particular team.

Cricket teams are grouped in two-year age blocks. Edinburgh has a policy of trying to place players with their friends when players first join at U10 & U12 age groups. The club follows this policy (rather than allocating players to teams on a strictly date-of-birth basis) because we understand that joining a new club can be daunting and joining with friends often makes this process easier. It needs to be understood however that, although the club places priority on keeping teams together, we cannot give any



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guarantee for subsequent seasons as the consequence of this policy is that players in a particular team can vary in age quite appreciably.

To support this, the club has a policy aimed at fostering a sense of belonging to the club so that, from their first year, the players get to know players in other teams. This is one of the reasons that training is conducted in age-groups rather than on a team-by-team basis. In the event that players in a team from one season have to be moved around the next season, the club hopes that they will already be familiar with many of their new team-mates. Thus, although we understand it may be disappointing, we hope that it will become an opportunity to make new friends. A usual circumstance that can cause difficulties in maintaining team stability is when the players in a particular team get to the point where they straddle two age levels and this can often have a knock-on effect on other team's structures.

Age groups:

The cutoff dates for playing in cricket teams is 31st August. In any particular season,

If a player is aged 9 or under on 31st August, they are an U10 player

If a player is aged 10 or 11 on 31st August, they are an U12 player

If a player is aged 12 or 13 on 31st August, they are an U14 player

If a player is aged 14 or 15 on 31st August, they are an U16 player

If a player is aged 16 or 17 on 31st August, they are an U18 player

Players playing above age grouping:

In principle the club will allow players to play above their age group (or above/below level within an age-group) under the following conditions:

- There are places available in the team that they wish to join without exceeding the cap (15 players)
- It will not result in the team they would be leaving having too few players to be viable (less than 13 players)
- Priority is given to players who are applying to play out of age group (or level) in order to remain with their team from the prior season
- Parents, coaches and the club must agree that the player will not be out of their depth playing at the higher level. The club wants players to enjoy their cricket and not to become demoralized.



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Order of placement into teams:

All players returning from the previous season who register by the deadline announced by the club will be accommodated in teams before a) any new player, b) any player registering late or c) any player returning from season's not immediately past (other than cases where the club has agreed prior to the absence, to hold a place. Examples of this would be in cases of injury or prolonged travel).

Priority may be given to new players who are from communities that are under-represented in cricket.

For this reason it is important to keep the club up to date with any email changes. Whilst the club makes every effort to contact all players from the prior season, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that they are aware of the registration deadlines and submit registrations on time. These dates should be available from the club before the end of July. Parents/Guardians should contact the club if they have heard nothing by then.

Considerations for A grade teams:

- Teams to be selected by the Team coach, Head coach and the Junior coordinator
- Teams to be selected with a view to team balance where players may be chosen as specialist batters or bowlers
- Teams will typically compete in A grade competitions within the ECA but where there are less than 3 teams at any age level the top team may play in a B grade competition. This is more likely to be the case at U16 age level.