



JUNIOR PARTICIPATION POLICY

As of June 2021

The Oakleigh Cricket Club strives to provide an inclusive environment for all boys and girls to enjoy the game of cricket, develop their skills, be part of a team, and most importantly have fun.

This policy provides a framework for Coaches & Team Managers to ensure the objectives of each age group are met, and that each player is provided with opportunities to actively participate and enjoy their cricket.

UNDER 11

Under 11s is primarily focused on participation & skill development, but in a more team based environment than Woolworths Cricket Blast.

Under 11s play a non-competitive format on a synthetic wicket. Matches are 20 Overs per side, where batting and bowling is rotated to provide equal opportunities for all players.

Players are introduced to structured training & playing conditions, and a hard cricket ball for the first time. All players are afforded the opportunity to develop their batting, bowling, throwing & catching - with a focus on establishing a baseline of skills & technique across all facets of the game.

UNDER 13 BOYS (ISEC) & GIRLS (AGCC)

Under 13s progress from the rotation-based format of Under 11s where the batting & bowling order is managed each week to ensure every player has the opportunity to contribute. Maximum participation and enjoyment remain the primary focus.

Under 13s play a season of one-day fixtures on a synthetic wicket, with the top-4 teams competing in finals. All Girls Cricket Competition (AGCC) matches are played under modified rules.

Players continue to develop fundamental cricket and teamwork skills from their time in Under 11s. At this age, players will start to focus on results but participation remains the primary focus.

UNDER 15 BOYS (ISEC) & UNDER 16 GIRLS (AGCC)

By this stage, players are starting to refine their cricket skills and demonstrate a preference towards batting or bowling. Under 15s & Under 16s provides players with a more competitive and challenging cricket environment.

Under 15s play in a synthetic (Friday) and/or turf (Sunday) competition, with the top-4 teams competing in finals.

The focus in this age group is on participation, honing a player's skillsets, and being competitive by aiming to win matches. Every effort will be made to expose players to a variety of roles within the team.

Training reflects a more structured model, with skills and drills focused more on refining skills developed right through the younger age groups. Thus, training is a primary avenue to prepare players for the expectations and requirements they will have placed on them when they move into senior cricket. This will include greater exposure to the club's senior players and ideally participation in senior matches where players are available and capable.

Leadership will be strongly encouraged and developed. Captains & Vice-Captains are appointed at this age group & will be given ample opportunities to lead and make decisions.



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UNDER 17 BOYS (ISEC)

Under 17 is the final stage of the Junior Cricket program. At this stage of the pathway, players are expected to take greater responsibility for their own development.

Players are exposed to an environment similar to Senior cricket. As in Under 15s, leadership will be strongly encouraged and developed. Captains & Vice-Captains are appointed & will be given ample opportunities to lead and make decisions, with relative autonomy on match day.

Training will be in conjunction with the Senior Cricket program, providing greater exposure to the club's senior players and ideally participation in senior matches where players are available and capable.

As part of Oakleigh CC's development pathway, any Under 17s interested in playing Senior Cricket will be afforded opportunities to play Seniors and support their ongoing development.

FINALS

To be eligible for finals, players must first qualify by playing & participating in a minimum number of games throughout the season.

In a situation where there are more than maximum number of players eligible for selection, the Coach may consider a number of factors including a child's attendance at training during the season, the child's presence at club functions, a child's adherence to the coach's directives during the season, and ability.

Where a player does not bat due to the loss of all wickets the coach will endeavour to ensure that the player has significant opportunity during the bowling innings (where possible).

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR & SPIRIT OF CRICKET

It is the expectation of all coaches, officials, players, spectators, and parents/guardians to adhere to the Spirit of Cricket and club's Code of Behaviour.

Ultimately, it comes down to respect for;

- Your opponents
- Your team
- The umpires
- The game's traditional values

Information on both policies can be found on the [Oakleigh CC website](#).