



Junior Team Allocation Policy

Scope

This policy relates to the formation of all junior teams within Mornington Cricket Club (MCC).

Purpose

Mornington Cricket Club is an inclusive club fostering a fun environment for juniors to develop their skills to progress and enjoy the game of cricket.

With the many varied requests for playing preferences received each year from parents of junior players, guidelines are required to assist in formulating teams. Placing players into teams in junior sport is always a complicated process and never an exact science.

It cannot be completely planned as numbers are not known until registrations are completed or we have reached team capacities.

Mornington Cricket Club aims to field junior teams of appropriate numbers, ideally capped at 12 for all age groups, as we believe this to be the optimum squad size. By exception, individual team squads can be increased to 13, provided the appointed coach agrees to this.

While the club aims to meet players and parents' requests, it is not always possible to do so and we urge people to remember that players join a club rather than a particular team. MCC endeavours to place players with at least some of their friends when they first join at U10s and U12s levels. We take this approach because we understand that joining a new club can be daunting and joining with friends often eases the process. However, this is not always possible in all cases.

Players and parents should understand that although the club places a priority on keeping groups together, we cannot give any guarantee as players move through post Under 12 age groups.

While it may be disappointing in the first instance, it will also become an opportunity to make new friends. In our experience, players and parents very quickly adapt and thrive in these situations.

The club is aiming to foster a sense of belonging so that players get to know players in other teams in their age group. This can also be achieved through training sessions and Club social functions, which are opportunities for players to get to know other players in their age group.

Our priority is to ensure that as many kids as possible can be accommodated to play the unique and wonderful game of cricket.

Mornington Cricket Club Inc



Guidelines

Registration Priority

A player becoming 10, 12, 14 or 16 years of age before 1st September is not eligible to play in the respective division at all during the season. No player under the age of 8 years is eligible for registration.

Girls are eligible to play down one age level.

In allocating team places priority will be given to:

- Registrations received prior to the initial registration cut-off date.
- Players being a current player from the immediately preceding season (this includes Woolworths Master Blaster) – provided they have met the initial registration cut-off date as above.

Playing in a Higher Age Group

If a player wishes to play in a higher age group, this can be permitted. The following guidelines apply-

1. Returning players from the previous season who have been playing with an older age group, will be strongly considered to play up based on the following-
 - Request in writing (email)
 - Skills, development and player safety
 - School grade (In the same school grade as majority of age group)
 - Coach and junior development advise
 - Must be registered by returning players registration cut-off date
 - Team numbers
2. New or existing players request to play up and age group who have not been playing up an age level before. These requests will be considered on the following-
 - Request in writing (email)
 - Request will not be considered until after returning players registration cut-off date
 - Team numbers
 - Skills, development and player safety
 - Junior development advise
 - Players club experience

The MCC Junior Coordinator will liaise with relevant parties to gather all information and make the decision with the Head of Junior Development.

Team Allocation



Morningsong Cricket Club Inc

The club has adopted the following approach:

Under 10s & Under 12s

Under 10 & 12 team allocations will continue to be based primarily on the established factors:

- Under 10 and under 12 groups formation is based on participation and fun
- Squad caps as above
- The players preference to playing with friends and school friends as much as practicable
- The player being a current player from the immediately preceding season
- Written requests, these will be considered

Where agreement cannot be reached the Junior Coordinator will have the final say.

Under 14 & Under 16

U14 & U16 team allocations will continue to be based primarily on the established factors:

- Under 14 & under 16 age groups will be graded. This will be finalised by MCC Junior development and coaches. This will include age, ability and development assessments.
This inevitably makes it harder to retain friendship groups throughout the junior age levels. However, we consider the approach to wherever possible keep top and bottom age players together will help with preserving some element of friendship groups and familiarity.
- Squad caps as above
- Previous established teams
- Written requests, these will be considered.
- The need to address squad balance in terms of numbers and capability – this may require some lower age players being allocated to the higher-grade team and potentially vice versa.

Where agreement cannot be reached the Head of Junior Development will have the final say.

Girls Cricket

Girls will need to register to play for both the Girls MPCA and the Morningsong CC Club Mixed Teams if they wish to have opportunity to play in both. The Registration priority is as per above.

It is assumed that the player will be placed in the age group according to birthdate as at 1 Sept unless they request / register into the Mixed team of the Age Group one age group below.

A player needs to request in writing to be playing below the age group level, verbal instruction will not be accepted. Allocation to teams will be based on the following:

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