



Introduction

Kincumber-Avoca Cricket Club's (KACC) aim to ensure that all junior players develop ethical standards of sporting behaviour and receive an inherently positive cricket experience which encourages them to remain involved in cricket throughout their lives.

Fun is the major motivator for children to play sport. In surveys where youngsters are asked why they play sport, the number one reason is always the same - to have fun. Winning is on the list but it is placed behind having fun. Children like to compete, but it's the fun of competing, the excitement of competing, not just the winning.

Junior coaches should not be measured on premiership wins, but rather on how many players wish to continue to play the following season. Talented players have the opportunity to participate in Central Coast Cricket Association's representative squads and receive additional game time at a higher level than club cricket.

Coaching Accreditation

In accordance with Cricket Australia requirements, all junior coaches will be required to complete a Cricket Australia coach accreditation course. This includes; Introduction to Cricket course, Community (Level One), Representative (Level Two) or High Performance (Level Three) coaching programs. Kincumber Avoca Cricket Club will meet the course cost to ensure that our club maintains a high level of compliance with this requirement.

Culture

Creating a positive culture within the team is important from the outset; not only amongst the players but also amongst parents. The coach and manager will be issued with a contact list and the best way to instil a positive culture from day one is to arrange a pre-season BBQ or picnic at a local park so the players and parents can get to know one another. Coaches and Managers should make a point of ensuring that parents are introduced to each other at the start of the season and this will go a long way when you're looking for someone to assist with scoring or umpiring.

Working with Children

All our junior coaches must have a "Working with Children" clearance.

Coaches and Managers Code of Conduct

- Remember that children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment not yours.
- Ensure the time the players spend with you is a positive experience, never ridicule a player for losing a game or making a mistake.
- Teach children that an honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Be reasonable in your demands of a player's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Avoid overplaying talented players, **all young players need and deserve equal time, attention and opportunity.**
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all your players.
- Show concern and caution towards a sick or injured player. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition. Ask for a written doctor's clearance after prolonged absences due to injury or illness.
- **Ensure you have a sound knowledge of the Child Protection Act**, have signed the relevant forms and abide by their recommendations regarding physical contact with players. Physical contact with players should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Remember that all children learn best from example. Applaud all good plays for either team.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting events.
- Display control and respect to all those involved in cricket. This includes opponents, coaches, umpires, administrators, parents and spectators. Encourage your players to do the same.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest cricket coaching practices and principles of growth and development of young people.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of Cricket and teach your players to do the same.
- Ensure you have a sound knowledge of the CCJCA local rules which are made specifically for the Central Coast competition.
- Never consume or distribute alcohol whilst present at a game under the control of CCJCA.

Age Group Participation Guidelines

U11A & B, 12B & C

KACC view these age groups/divisions as developmental years and all players should be given an opportunity to participate in every aspect of the game in order to establish a sound skills base. Weekly rotation of the batting order throughout the season is strongly encouraged.

All players should share the opening bowling role with each team member given an opportunity to bowl an equal amount of overs as other team members throughout the season.

Wicket keeping duties should be shared amongst players who express an interest in the role. Wicket Keepers are thus likely to bowl less overs than others during a match and throughout the season.

U12A, 14B & C, 16B & C

In these ages/divisions players should be encouraged to work on their more favoured discipline whether it be batting, bowling or fielding. The batting order should be rotated on a regular basis but can be set by the coach according to the playing group's level of skill, ability and importance of a match. Players who express interest in batting should be given every opportunity to share the top order role. **No player is to continually bat down the order.**

All players must be given the opportunity to bowl in each game, especially the players lower in the batting order. Wicket keeping duties should be shared amongst players who express an interest in the role. Players that keep during a game may bowl less overs than other players in a match and fewer overs throughout the season.

16A & 14A

The 14A's and 16A's are the strongest competitions in junior cricket. At this stage of a player's development they start to favour a discipline and this can be reflected in their role within the team. Batting and bowling orders can be set. Each player must have a role in the team and they must know their role. Top order batsmen do not necessarily have to bowl each game and the main bowlers do not have to bat each week. Under no circumstances should a player continually bat down the order and not bowl.

A specialist wicketkeeper can be selected.

Summary

No matter what age or division **all players must be given the opportunity to contribute equally** to the team. More talented players should not be favoured over other players during matches and at training.

Always be aware of your player's contributions throughout the season and look for ways to get them involved if they haven't had the same opportunities as others. For instance, there are times in some matches where no result can be achieved and you are required to complete the mandatory number of overs, this scenario provides an opportunity to bat/bowl players that have not batted/bowled as much as others during the season.

Any variances to these guidelines must be cleared by the KACC Junior Committee.