



# **NORTH BALWYN CRICKET CLUB Inc.**

## **JUNIOR PARTICIPATION POLICY**

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The North Balwyn Cricket Club (NBCC) is one of the premier junior clubs in the Eastern Cricket Association (ECA). All junior players are encouraged to participate, develop their skills, learn the rules and importantly, have fun.

We want all players at the club to abide by the “spirit of cricket” and to start to learn the laws of cricket during their time in the junior section.

The essential elements of team sport being inclusion, participation, role-playing, complimenting each other’s strengths and making up for each other’s weaknesses, all the while working towards team goals should be **communicated to all team members and parents at the start of the season**, so all players and parents understand their roles and responsibilities in their team.

The junior sub-committee strives to recruit, educate and assist our qualified coaches to carry out their role and to ensure that this policy is implemented.

NBCC aims to field teams at under 10 level and A, B and C grade levels in each of the under 12, 14 and 16 age levels as well as an under 18 team. Different guidelines will be applied to these levels.

### **Guidelines for under 10’s and U 12’s, 14’s C grades**

1. **Batting and Bowling:** Positions will be rotated during the season so that all players are given the chance to bat for a similar amount of overs (providing they are not dismissed) and bowl a similar number of overs.
2. **Wicketkeeping:** Players interested in wicketkeeping should be rotated through the role and be given the opportunity to wicket keep.
3. **Captaincy:** In Under 10s and 12s, the captain will be rotated round by round. Coaches will be giving a lot of assistance to the captains in the lower grades, so they won't have an unfair amount of responsibility.

In Under 14s it is recommended to have a set captain if determined by the coach, along with one or two 'official' vice captains if the coach wishes to delegate more titled leadership roles. This gives the team a good structure and sense of continuity.

The above guidelines come with the proviso that players will never be forced to play in a role that they do not wish to.

Some scenarios may lead to unequal participation i.e. a batting collapse could lead to less overs bowled and if this happens, then efforts should be made to rectify this over subsequent weeks.

## Guidelines for U16 C grade and U12, 14 and 16's B grade

1. **Batting and Bowling:** Positions to be rotated during the season, but players should have more of a chance to have a go at and have continuity in their primary role. For example, it is preferable for a player with a batting role to get 15 overs to bat and not bowl at all, and that is up to the coach to manage in consultation with the player. Any spare overs at the end to be allocated as deemed appropriate by the coach.
2. **Team Role:** Players will be starting to develop into set roles and will be given the best opportunity to develop in that role i.e. some players may start to specialize as batters, bowlers, or wicketkeepers.
3. **Wicketkeeping:** There should be a small number (2-3) of preferred wicket keepers.
4. **Captaincy:** It is recommended to have a set captain if this suits the coach, along with one or two 'official' vice captains if coaches want to delegate more titled leadership roles. This gives the team a good structure and sense of continuity.

The above guidelines come with the proviso that players will never be forced to play in a role that they do not wish to.

Some scenarios may lead to unequal participation i.e. a batting collapse could lead to less overs bowled and if this happens, then efforts should be made to rectify this over subsequent weeks.

## Guidelines for A grade teams under 12's, 14's, 16's and under 18's

In all A grade teams, there is a greater emphasis on winning.

1. **Batting** positions will be structured in a way that allows the team the best chance of winning. If the game allows, the coach will provide batting opportunities to all team members who have a batting role. If some scenarios lead to unequal participation, then coaches should try to rectify this over the following weeks, as long as this doesn't jeopardize the team's chance of winning.
2. **Bowling** positions will be structured in a way that primarily allows the team the best chance of winning and the bowling order may be more settled. If the game allows, then bowling opportunities will be given to all team members who have a bowling role. If some scenarios lead to unequal participation, then coaches should try rectifying this over the following weeks, as long as this doesn't jeopardise the team's chance of winning.
3. **Team Role:** Everyone in the team will have a role and will be given the best opportunity to develop in that role. Some players may specialise being selected primarily as batters or bowlers. If a player isn't getting much game time in his or her specified role, the coach will try and develop that player in game simulations during training.
4. **Wicketkeeping:** There should be a preferred wicketkeeper.

5. **Captaincy:** A captain will be chosen at the start of the season along with one or two 'official' vice captains. This gives the team a good structure and sense of continuity.

No player will be designated a 12<sup>th</sup> man in junior cricket

Finally, we do encourage the coach and team managers of each team to manage the team in way that maximizes participation, ensures the players have fun and that the spirit of cricket is followed on all occasions.

### **For more information**

If you or your child feels that they are not receiving a reasonable opportunity to participate, the club encourages you to approach your coach, or your age level coordinator at a suitable time to discuss the matter.

In addition, we have a Junior Coordinator and Head of Junior Coaching who are available to assist as well.

### **Junior Coordinator**

Nick Davies  
P: 0403 178 719  
E: [nick.davies@sparkdigital.com.au](mailto:nick.davies@sparkdigital.com.au)

### **Head of Junior Coaching**

Max Dias  
P: 0406 894 325  
E: [max.dias116@gmail.com](mailto:max.dias116@gmail.com)

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