



GISBORNE CRICKET CLUB
JUNIOR TEAM FORMATION POLICY
UPDATED 2/09/2025

1. BACKGROUND

The Gisborne and District Cricket Association (GDCA) has a team formation policy that requires the participating clubs to assess players according to the players' skills, size, and abilities. The GDCA's explanation for this policy points out its importance for the development of the individual and their skills. The GDCA team selection policy is dictated by the competition set up:

- Should the GDCA decide that an age group will be graded, the GCC will grade players into teams accordingly into the GDCA's required grades, should the GCC's registrations facilitate multiple teams.
- Should the GDCA decide that an age group will be ungraded or a Zoned competition, the GCC will grade players into evenly matched teams, should the GCC's registrations facilitate multiple teams

For the 2025/26 season, the Gisborne Cricket Club (GCC) committee decided to fall in line with the GDCA's policy and coordinate team selection for age groups where player registrations support multiple teams, excluding the Mixed Under 11 age group and Under 13 Junior Girls age group.

2. PURPOSE

This Team Formation policy aims to ensure that team selection is conducted fairly and effectively and in the best interest of the players and the club.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objective of Team Formation is to:

- Create teams consisting of individuals of similar skill and ability.
- Allow teams to play in a suitable competitive environment.
- Allow the GCC to be represented in each age group of the GDCA competition.

Team Formation will occur in all age groups should our registrations become sufficient to affiliate two or more teams in each age group.

4. SCOPE

This policy applies to all members, participants, volunteers, coaches, and employees of Gisborne Cricket Club.



5. CONSIDERATIONS

Friendships

Under 11 Mixed and Under 13 Junior Girls Teams: The GCC acknowledges that players enjoy playing with friends and will use their best endeavours to ensure players are placed with friends of similar ability. Friendship requests will be a priority for the Under 11 Mixed and Under 13 Junior Girls teams. However, this is not always possible and the GCC believes that playing outside of such friendship groups is a good opportunity to meet and foster new friendships and community engagement in line with GCC culture.

Other Junior Age Groups: The GCC acknowledges that players enjoy playing with friends and will use their best endeavours to ensure players are placed with friends of similar ability. However, this is not a priority for team formation in these age groups. The GCC believes that playing outside of such friendship groups is a good opportunity to meet and foster new friendships and community engagement in line with GCC culture.

Previous Teams

Players and guardians should be aware that the success of a team in one year does not ensure that the team remains together the following year. Due to the nature of change, new registrations, and differing development rates of all players from season to season, player movement in and out of such teams will occur.

During the Team Formation process:

- Every registered player is treated as an individual member irrespective of previous team, grade, or club.
- Every registered player has an equal opportunity.

6. SELECTION ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Selection Criteria During the assessment process, in no particular order, the following criteria will be considered for cricket:

- Fundamental skills (i.e., batting, bowling, fielding)
- Game based decision making
- Physical size and fitness
- Sportsmanship and attitude
- Coachability



7. TEAM FORMATION PROCESS

Team Formation will be coordinated by the relevant Junior Coordinator and a Junior Selection Panel. A Selection Panel will be chosen by the coordinators, with the aim of having the Selection Panel include identified committee members who have experience and knowledge of a particular age group. The Selection Panel will include a minimum of three individuals. In the conduct of their role, the Selection Panel has the freedom to consult with individuals outside the Selection Panel to achieve the best possible outcome from the Team Selection process. This may be coaches from previous seasons and individuals assisting in skills sessions and/or pre-season training.

Catering for an individual's availability to participate in the Selection Panel, it is not a requirement for all members of the Selection Panel to be present at all skill sessions/trainings. The expectation is that the Selection Panel members will work together to arrange representation at all skill sessions/trainings.

Whilst the goal is to complete Team Formation prior to Pre-season Training commencing, there is potential for players to join the club closer to Round 1, or even after the season has commenced. This is a period of time after Team Formation has been completed. This scenario presents a special case to be resolved by the Coordinator in conjunction with the age group coach/es. The selection criteria remains applicable, however the means of assessing the player against that criteria will require tailoring for the specific scenario.

Team Formation

The objective of the Team Formation process is to assess players in an unbiased and fair manner.

When selecting players for teams, the following will be taken into consideration in order of importance:

1. Player is registered with the GCC
2. Previous Season performance
3. Selection Panel assessment
4. Ability to meet the team's dynamics
5. Sportsmanship, attitude and coachability
6. Sibling alignment
7. Friendships alignment

With respect to friendships and sibling alignment, guardians are to notify the Coordinator of this requirement. If the outcome of the Team Formation process is that the players are not in the same team, the Coordinator will consult with the guardians. If alignment is to proceed, the default position is for the players to be selected in the lower of the two teams.

The ultimate outcome of the Team Formation process is to develop teams that will be of a standard suitable for each age group and grade of the GDCA competition. If, after Team Formation a player demonstrates attributes and performance exceeding, or otherwise, the original selection assessment, contemplation to move the player up / down will be considered.



Consultation with the GDCA may be required in this instance. This process is to be conducted by the Coordinator in conjunction with the age group coach/es.

During the Team Formation process, guardians, players, and non-club personnel are not to discuss team formation with the Selection Panel in an attempt to influence selection and team formation. Parents, players, and non-club personnel are to direct any inquiries relating to Team Formation to the Coordinator.

8. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Multiple Teams in the same Age Group and Grade

Where two teams from an age group are placed by the GDCA into the same grade, a review of the existing Team Formation will be required. In this scenario, the aim will be to balance the teams to attempt to achieve a level of parity in performance between the teams.