

# **POLICY DOCUMENT #3:2006**

## **COMPETITIONS AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Committee recognises that the Club is part of a statewide comprehensive structure for junior community cricket and as such has key roles and responsibilities in promoting and encouraging long-term participation in the game of cricket.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- To ensure a consistent flow of players into senior cricket (at all levels), junior community cricket must cater effectively for all participants.
  - The Club shares the view of the Junior Management Board (JMB) that cricket is best served by keeping the largest possible number of players in the game as long as possible.
  - Players at all skill levels deserve the opportunity to experience a high degree of involvement and, ideally, a measure of success.
  - The skills and competitive abilities of many young cricketers do not become obvious until well into their teenage years, hence the drop-out rate among players eligible to play Under 14 to Under 17 competitions must be reduced.
  - The Club will contribute to the goals of the JMB by entering teams in competitions which develop junior players in line with the following criteria at each age level.
1. For players aged 8 and under, the focus should be on fun, participation and learning basic skills. The friendly intra-club Joey and Kanga competitions run according to WACA guidelines meet these criteria.
  2. For players aged 9 and 10, the focus should be on fun, participation, consolidation of basic skills and starting to gain an understanding of the game. The South East Metropolitan Junior Cricket Council's Under 11 Action Cricket competition meets these criteria.
  3. For players aged 11 and 12, the focus should be on participation, further skill development, introduction to competitive cricket and increased understanding, including the "spirit" of the game of cricket. The South East Metropolitan Junior Cricket Council's Under 13 Limited Overs competition meets these criteria. With the exception of the Junior Cricket Council's Inverarity Shield, the Club does not support competitions with Traditional rules for Under 13 players.
  4. For players aged 13 and over, competitions which focus on encouraging long-term participation in cricket by developing the physical and mental skills necessary to progress successfully through the age groups and eventually play senior cricket are required.

The Club supports in principle the proposal by the JMB to extend guaranteed participation into these older age groups in the South East Metropolitan Junior Cricket Council's competitions, provided the current arrangements and rules remain in place for Inter District Representative competitions, so the more skilled players can experience Traditional cricket.

- The focus for development of female players is essentially the same as for male players. However female players playing in mixed teams will be encouraged to continue playing by being allowed to remain two years longer in each grade than male players.
- The Club will encourage female players to play in mixed teams where appropriate but will also cater for girls who wish to play in all-girl teams by entering teams in the WAWCA Sunsmart Girls Cricket Competition.
- All players should play in the age group indicated by their birth date. However the Committee may give permission for players to play in a higher or lower age group if there are compelling reasons to do so and the safety and health of the player, or other players involved, is not placed at risk.
- Requests to play in a higher/lower age group must be submitted in writing and will be considered by the Committee on a case by case basis with the welfare of the player(s) as the primary consideration.
- The Club recognises that some extremely talented, precocious players will emerge from time to time, and these players need to be supported in their development with special programs. Early promotion to a higher age group may be appropriate provided player safety and well being is not compromised.
- The Club also recognises there will be players who, despite the best efforts of coaches over a reasonable period of time, are clearly unable to cope with the demands of the game even if they are allowed to remain one year longer in each grade. These players and their Parents will be encouraged and assisted to find alternative sporting or recreational pursuits.

## **DELEGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Inclusion in this Quality Manual provides proof that the Committee has endorsed the Policy. All office bearers, Committee members, coaches, volunteers and members are responsible for ensuring the Club's endorsed policy is promoted and upheld.

## **RELATED CLUB POLICIES**

Safety and Health (#2:2006), Coaches and Volunteers (#4:2006), Codes of Behaviour (#6:2006) Child Protection and Harassment Free Sport (#8:2006).

## **RELEVANT EXTERNAL POLICIES, DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION**

Western Australian Cricket Association Annual Year Book (the orange thing)  
Western Australian Cricket Association Strategic Plan.  
WACA Junior Management Board "Competition Guidelines For Junior Cricket"