

Regional Tournament Questionnaire: CJCA Response

Thanks to those who took the time to respond to the questionnaire. As a result of the responses, CJCA processes have been thoroughly reviewed and changes are being made as a consequence. We are also substantially updating parts of the CJCA website to better reflect the aims and expectations of the Cricket Express Regional Tournaments and representative selections (to be completed prior to the 09/10 cricket season).

In this document the CJCA replies to common issues raised by responses to the questionnaire.

Emerging Teams

- Choose stars from Emerging to play in representative sides.
- In Year 6 all should get chance for representative selection.
- How can we include the best of them into the representative teams.
- From November Tournament, pick best of Emerging to play at Mandeville.
- We do need to think of how we communicate the carrot for the best Emerging players as the CJCA may get the occasional selection wrong at trials, especially in Year 6.
- Ensure Year managers consult Emerging managers for feedback on the best.
- Build in the feedback for the next round of trials, especially if Emerging-coaches felt that someone was in wrong grade.

RESPONSE: The CJCA has a clear player development pathway (see below). The CJCA understands that some players in the Development teams and the top players of the Emerging teams may have broadly similar abilities and skills – no selection process is perfect and player performance varies at different times and places (e.g., trial or a match). Players on the fringe of Development and Emerging teams will often be selected into a particular team to provide balance to that team.

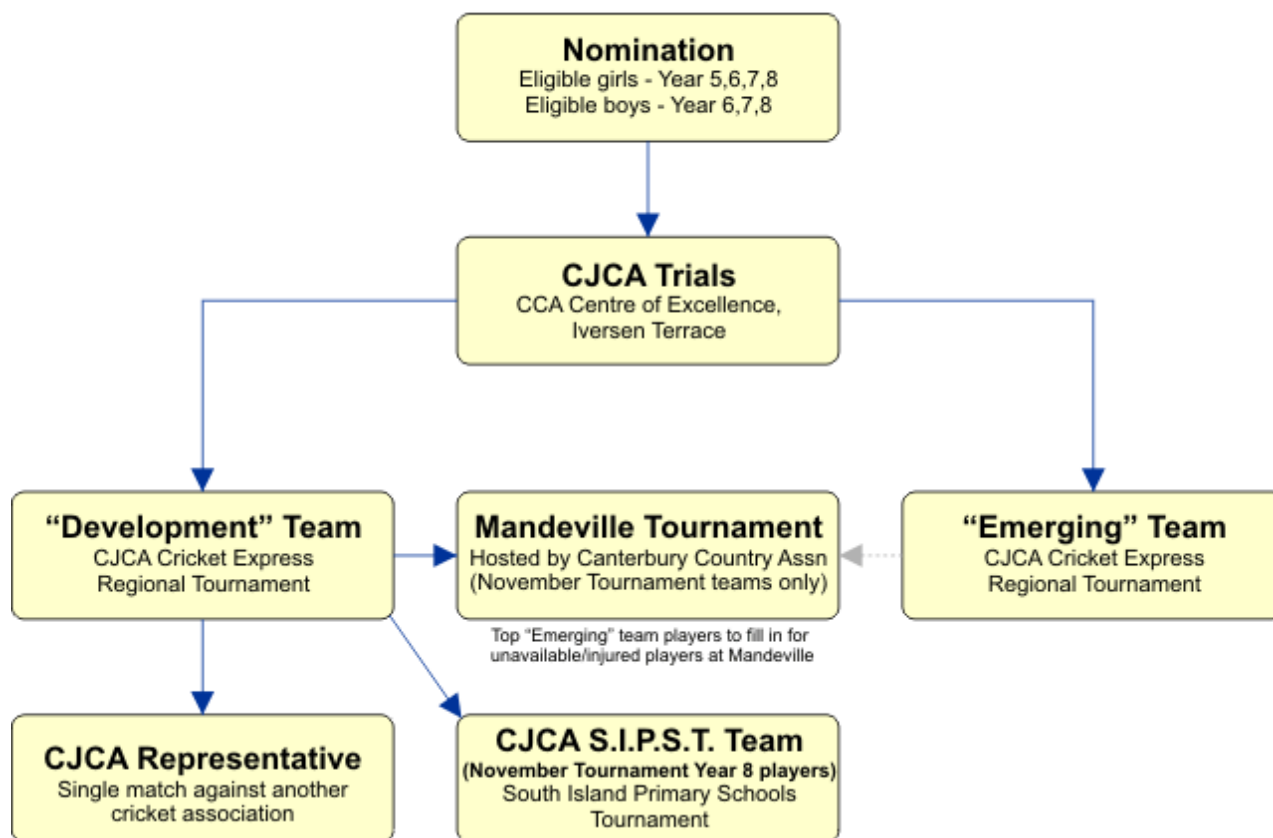
No player is guaranteed entry into Development teams. There are often 6–12 players moving between Development and Emerging teams between tournaments. Grade selectors will monitor the best performing Emerging players, and these will be closely observed at the trials for the selection of Development and Emerging teams for the next tournament. The top Emerging players are to be used as replacements for sick, injured, or unavailable Development players at the CJCA Cricket Express Regional Tournament and the Mandeville Tournament. The Mandeville Tournament is organised by the Canterbury Country Cricket Association and the CJCA is invited to send the four development teams.

Representative players are only selected from among the four Development teams as it is accepted that at a given regional tournament these are the best players. Experience has shown that at a specific tournament there are differences in abilities between the top 15–30 Development players and the remaining players in the Development teams and those in Emerging teams.

- Emerging - pick 2 sides from the 4 and then against each other or as a warm up vs a Representative team.

RESPONSE: If a parent wants to volunteer to select/organise two Emerging teams to play each other then this could happen. However, it is considered that the skill difference is too great to have an emerging team oppose a representative team.

CJCA Player Development Pathway



Timing for the Tournament

- Start matches earlier to allow for more overs, avoid PM wind and finish earlier
- Have a rest day on 3rd week
- Nov tournament is early in the season but what other options
- One person said to avoid show w/e

RESPONSE: CJCA is satisfied that the current tournament timing works well. The number of over’s per innings for year 6, 7 and 8 at Feb/March and November is currently being reviewed; especially for year 6 to be increased: February/March 30 over’s to 35 over’s; November/December 35 over’s to 40 over’s.

Playing conditions

- Use Mandeville style points system and have a winning team per year group for Development and Emerging.

RESPONSE: CJCA is currently debating the merits of a points system. Until now a points system has not been adopted as the tournament is primarily about player development and equal opportunity for all players to perform the skills for which they were selected. However, CJCA do acknowledge that this is a competitive tournament in which the players play to win, a winner in each grade can be expected, and the tournament is not just a series of trial games for selecting representative teams. If a points system is introduced coaches will need to ensure all players have equal opportunity and that the better players do not dominate for the sake of winning.

- Allow team coach to umpire at square leg, especially for younger ones.

RESPONSE: Coaches already do enough, as many of the coaches of emerging and development teams also coach Saturday teams. It is important for player development that all players (including year 6 players) need to learn to think for themselves on a cricket field without the coach being present. Coaches can still give guidance and instructions from the sideline and they may also provide advice between overs, but they need to ensure that the match is not unduly delayed. In the interests of player development, coaches should direct their advice to the captain. It is also a good development opportunity for year 9–11 players to learn to umpire.

- Rotation fine but coaches need to follow the rules consistently (several people stated this)
- Class as bat/bowl and rotate as such
- Less rotation needed for the older players
- Batters bat and bowlers bowl for all age groups
- Too many wicket keepers also bowl and bat in top 4
- Tell the players what they are picked for and allow more specialisation of skills
- Yr 7/8 45 overs and bat higher more regularly or bowl more overs.
- Relax rotation in yr 8 as start to specialise more
- Scrap retirements and use opening bats/bowls as they should be
- Ret at 50
- Keep retired number of balls the same for both tournaments
- 1 bowler can bowl as many as they want!!

RESPONSE: CJCA rules are to encourage participation of all players in years 6, 7 and 8 and to give all players equal opportunity to perform at least the skills they were primarily selected for. Rotation policy is currently being reviewed to ensure it operates well.

- Year 6 players should all get equal opportunity to bat and bowl; over the three games there should be full batting rotation for each player - top 1/3; middle 1/3, lower 1/3. Bowlers to bowl an even number of overs.
- Years 7 and 8 do allow for increasing player specialisation, but it is imperative that all players still get the opportunity to perform the skills they were selected for.

Representative players in all age groups are selected for specific positions/skills.

- Spread the wicket keeping job around

RESPONSE: Wicket keepers in regional tournament teams are selected from those players who indicated they wanted to trial as a wicket keeper; regional tournament teams should each have 2 wicket keepers, with

some teams often having more. For representative teams the wicket keepers need to be competent, not just selected to have 2 wicket keepers per team. Players should have the opportunity to try wicket keeping during their Saturday club games.

- Player numbers, 11 Development, 12 Emerging, so use best to plug gap if needed in Development
- 11 tricky enough to juggle bat/bowl orders let alone 12

RESPONSE: Twelve players are selected to increase the numbers of players exposed to a higher level of cricket; 11 players can bowl (1 non-bowler is designated) and 11 players can bat (one non-batter designated). Having 12 players per team allows two more players in every game to play a higher level of cricket.

- Spare 6 players who did not make teams to be given to Emerging coaches to plug any gaps.
- If gap in Development then plug from best of Emerging not straight from reserves.

RESPONSE: Grade selectors have lists of reserve players. Grade Selectors and coaches should be ensuring emerging players are used as replacements in development teams.

Trials

- How to build in fielding assessment and better wicket keeper assessment

RESPONSE: Wicket keeping skills and techniques are readily observed at the trial. Even if players are not getting the opportunity to catch many balls their wicket keeping skills can be observed. For example, do they crouch correctly, have their gloves in an open position with fingers pointing down, move laterally and stay in a low position, and have their head in line with the flight of the ball?

- Need to increase number of sessions to reduce number of players as 1 hour not enough for numbers in each lane
- Ensure equal time for all batters. Possibly need second bat if unsure or very nervous.

RESPONSE: Most year groups have between 90 and 150 players trialling. With about 8 players per lane per hour each trial can take 3–5 hours, and then the teams have to be selected in the 1–2 hours following the trial. This is already a significant commitment of time by the selectors and it occurs in a short window of opportunity in the weeks just prior to the regional tournaments. With boys and girls trials for years 6, 7 and 8 this whole process already takes 4 days. Lane selectors make every effort to ensure players get equal time batting – often players will be given to other lanes towards the end of a trial session if another lane has completed their batting, to ensure each player gets a fair chance to demonstrate their skill.

- Forget Feb trial for yr 7/8 as seen enough of them. Just trial new players.
- Use auto nominations for some after first tournament

RESPONSE: The selectors have no loyalty to players selected in previous teams. The selectors treat all players equally at each trial as players improve their skills/technique and some lose form/technique.

CJCA requires nomination for each tournament since the exact numbers of players at a trial are required (to allocate times), players contact details change between tournaments, and some do not re-trial (even after being selected in Emerging/Development teams).